

## U.N. envoy arrives in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — United Nations envoy Jean-Claude Aime arrived in Beirut Friday to see Lebanese officials, Beirut Radio said. Mr. Aime has held frequent discussions with Lebanese and Israeli officials during the U.N.-hosted talks on ending the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon. Following a Christmas recess, the Israeli and Lebanese military delegations are scheduled to hold a 12th round of talks on Monday at the Lebanese border village of Naqoura. Presidential palace sources told Reuters that Mr. Aime would probably meet President Amin Gemayel and Prime Minister Rashid Karami Saturday.

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## SLA man wounded in ambush

TEL AVIV (R) — A soldier of the pro-Israeli South Lebanese Army (SLA) was seriously wounded Friday when his patrol was ambushed near Sahar village, Israeli military sources said. In two other attacks, a Katyusha rocket was fired at an Israeli army position in Nabariyah but Israel said there were no casualties or damage. A roadside bomb went off in the coastal town of Sidon without causing any casualties, the sources said.

## Saboteurs say Iran, Syria involved in Baghdad blast

BAGHDAD (R) — Three young men identifying themselves as Iraqis said on Baghdad Television that they collaborated with Iran and Syria to cause an explosion in central Baghdad last month that killed three children. One of them, who named himself as Mehdi Saleh Ali, said he had received explosives and instructions from a Syrian intelligence officer named Major Abdul Rahman Mustapha on the Iraqi-Syrian border. Two of the men said they had also tried unsuccessfully to bomb the Baghdad offices of Egyptian and Air France.

## Coptic Pope returns to Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Pope Shenouda III, Egyptian patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church, arrived here Friday on his first venture outside the desert monastery the late President Anwar Sadat banished him to 40 months ago. A well-known source at Cairo's Coptic Patriarchate said the pope, whose arrival time had been shrouded in secrecy for security reasons, arrived there on Friday evening. (Earlier story on page 2).

## Israelis shoot Arab in Bethlehem

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli occupation forces Thursday shot and wounded an Arab who they said refused to identify himself at a roadblock in Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank. A police spokesman said the Arab had been with a group of young people who were stopped at a roadblock. "They were asked to show their identification papers but decided to run away," the spokesman said. "The policemen first fired warning shots in the air and then at the escaping men. One was wounded and is being held for questioning," he added.

## Talks under way for Cypriot summit

GENEVA (R) — Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot representatives had separate meetings with senior United Nations officials Friday to prepare for a meeting between leaders of the two communities later this month, a U.N. official said. U.N. Executive Officer Giandomenico Picco discussed technical and procedural matters with the foreign minister of the self-proclaimed Turkish republic of northern Cyprus, Necati Murr Ertekin, and Andreas Mavromatis, director-general of the Cyprus Foreign Ministry, diplomatic sources said.

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## King, Andreotti review Mideast peace prospects

By Salameh B. Ne'matt  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein met Friday with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and discussed with him the latest developments in the Middle East and the possibility of launching an Italian spearheaded European initiative to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict, a well-placed Italian official said.

The official, who declined to be identified, said Italy "is particularly interested in the Middle East for its proximity to the region and its good bilateral relations." He said Mr. Andreotti decided to visit Jordan in the light of the recent developments, including the holding of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Amman and the renewed Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue.

During his meeting with Mr. Andreotti, the King said he highly appreciated the visit of the Italian foreign minister "which emphasises the Italian government's concern to co-ordinate the dialogue between the two friendly countries on issues of mutual interest," the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported.

It quoted Mr. Andreotti as saying during the meeting that choosing Jordan as the first country to visit after Italy assumed the presidency of the European Community (EC) was "an indication of the Italian government's appreciation of the central role played by Jordan under the leadership of King Hussein and his relentless efforts to achieve a just peace in the region."

In a statement he made upon his arrival at Amman airport, Mr. Andreotti said that Italy was concerned within the community with the Middle East problem, particularly in the light of the recent diplomatic moves by the Pal-

estine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Commenting on the possibility of launching a Middle East peace initiative, Mr. Andreotti said the last time Italy assumed the presidency of the EC, it issued the Venice Declaration of 1980 "which we still consider as valid." He said "there cannot be a new initiative unless there is some preparation."

The Venice Declaration on the Middle East, which was supported by the PLO and Arab countries, calls for Palestinian rights to self-determination and the right of all countries in the area to be secure.

Mr. Andreotti told reporters that Italy believes that an international Middle East peace conference should be preceded by "certain preparations and conditions that have to be met first." He added that all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict "have to be contacted first for the success of such a conference."

In response to a question, Mr. Andreotti, speaking through an interpreter, said that at the EC summit meeting in Dublin, Ireland, last month, "we stressed the validity of the Venice Declaration and that the PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people." He said the PLO should take part in any peace negotiations aimed at ending the

(Continued on page 3)

## Jackson ready to visit Beirut on mission to free 3 captives

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson said Friday he was willing to go to Lebanon to help free three missing Americans he believes are alive and being held hostage.

Mr. Jackson said in an interview with NBC Television News from Rome that he had been approached for help by relatives of the three men.

"I began to conduct inquiries and investigations and I have reason to believe that the men are alive and that is a sign of hope," he said. Mr. Jackson later left on a flight to London.

The civil rights leader held a meeting with Pope John Paul Thursday, urging him to visit South Africa to mobilise world sentiment against its apartheid system of racial segregation.

A year ago during his unsuccessful bid for the presidency, Mr. Jackson captured headlines by negotiating the release of U.S. navy aviator Andrew Goodman from a Syrian jail.

"I think the word has gotten out that we do want to bring the men back out if possible," he said. Mr. Jackson said he believed the three men were being held hostage "not by a government" but declined to discuss his findings in detail.

The three missing Americans are Ben Weir, a Presbyterian minister from Berkeley, California, diplomat William Buckley, and Jeremy Levin, a correspondent for the U.S. Cable Television Network (CNN).

Mr. Jackson said he had been asked to intervene by Mr. Levin's wife. A caller to a western news agency last May claimed that all three Americans were being held by the Islamic Jihad.

As is customary with private audiences, the Vatican released no details of Thursday's papal meeting.

## Thousands of smuggled Jews from Ethiopia surface in Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Details emerged Friday of a secret Israeli operation to smuggle in Ethiopian Jews from their famine-hit land. According to unsubstantiated various reports, the total number of the "Falasha" Jews so brought in now stands over 25,000.

According to analysts the Israeli government has been using pledges of food and better living conditions to lure in the famine-stricken Falashas to increase the population of the Jewish state and offset the Jewish-Arab population ratio in Israel and the occupied Arab territories.

Jewish Agency Chairman Leon Dulzin said Friday most Ethiopian Jews have been taken to Israel.

Interviewed on British Broadcasting Corp. Radio, Mr. Dulzin said American Jews had contributed heavily to the rescue operation, which he said had cost "quite a considerable sum... tens and tens of millions of dollars."

Mr. Dulzin, head of the agency which assists immigration to Israel, said the operation would continue for "another few weeks."

Asked whether the vast majority of the estimated 25,000 Falasha community had been transferred, he replied, "that's right."

Israeli officials Friday voiced deep concern that publicity might endanger the airlift of the Ethiopian Jews and ordered an inquiry into press leaks of the operation.

The airlift, an open secret in Israel for many months, has been reported prominently in the world's media since Israeli censors allowed foreign correspondents to file news of it Thursday.

Yehuda Dominitz, a senior Jewish Agency official, was suspended Thursday for breaking the story of an interview with a small weekly newspaper published by a wing of the Jewish settlement movement.

Israeli military censors are now allowing correspondents to report some details of the airlift. According to Western sources, Ethiopian Jews are leaving via neighbouring Sudan.

Ethiopia declared Friday that it has no part in the airlift and issued a sharp condemnation of neighbouring Sudan and other countries for "illegal trafficking" in Ethiopian citizens.

"The Ethiopian government reiterates that it is in no way involved in this sinister operation and



His Majesty King Hussein Friday confers with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti (to the King's right) in a meeting attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri (to the King's left) and other senior officials and members of an official delegation accompanying Mr. Andreotti (Petra photo).

## PLO chairman heads for UAE after high-level talks in Amman

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat left Amman for Abu Dhabi Friday after six days of stay here during which he attended the funeral of an assassinated Palestinian official, held talks with His Majesty King Hussein and chaired a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee.

Mr. Arafat told reporters before his departure that his talks with King Hussein focused on the King's proposal for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian political initiative to solve the Palestinian problem based on the principle of exchanging land for peace with Israel.

"Jordanian-Palestinian viewpoints were in agreement, as usual," Mr. Arafat told reporters. He did not elaborate.

The PLO chairman said he and the King also discussed the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories and means to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people living under the Israeli occupation.

The talks also dealt with the

current situation in the Arab World with special emphasis on the necessity of strengthening Arab solidarity and speeding up efforts for convening the much-delayed Arab summit, he said.

Asked to comment on the forthcoming meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and whether a U.S.-Soviet agreement on arms will have any effect on efforts to solve the Palestinian problem with the participation of both superpowers, Mr. Arafat said:

"It is only natural that for the two superpowers to reach an agreement, because not reaching an accord would result in a global explosion."

He expressed optimism that the Shultz-Gromyko meeting will help efforts for an international conference on Middle East.

"The Soviet Union's stand on the Middle East is based on the Soviet commitment towards securing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people through the holding of an international conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO as the sole legitimate rep-

resentative of the Palestinian people," he said.

Mr. Arafat arrived in Amman Sunday after cutting short a visit to South Yemen following the assassination of PLO Executive Committee member Fakh Qawasmeh the previous day. Mr. Qawasmeh's body was buried in Amman Monday.

On Thursday, King Hussein and Mr. Arafat held discussions over a working luncheon hosted by the King. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said they reviewed means to strengthen Jordanian-Palestinian joint action. The news agency did not elaborate, but it was believed that the two leaders' talks also dealt with security measures to protect PLO officials, in the wake of the assassination of Mr. Qawasmeh.

The PLO Executive Committee, which was elected at the 17th session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) held in Amman last November, also discussed security arrangements for PLO officials during a meeting on Wednesday.

The King's working ...cb with

(Continued on page 3)

## Last-minute snags delay Lebanon plan

BEIRUT (AP) — Rival militias failed Friday to iron out snags holding up the reopening of the coastal highway linking Beirut with Israel's occupation zone in South Lebanon, local radio stations said.

The state radio said "urgent contacts" were under way between various government and militia leaders to reschedule for next Monday the often-delayed security plan for the highway.

A coordination committee made up of Lebanese army and police officers as well as the principal civil war militias ended a five-hour meeting Friday afternoon with an announcement that no compromise had been reached to resolve last-minute objections raised by the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and the predominantly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia.

These objections involved the role and areas of operations of about 200 internal security policemen who originally were slated to deploy on the highway on Thursday to begin defusing mines and removing militia barricades.

The operation was to set the stage for the deployment of Lebanese army troops on the highway so they would be in position to move south once Israel began withdrawing its occupation forces from the southern third of Lebanon.

Police, meanwhile, said Friday they had no clue to the whereabouts of Swiss Charge d'Affaires Eric Wehrli, who was kidnapped by gunmen 24 hours earlier in west Beirut (See page 2).

In Bern, the Swiss government said the abduction of Mr. Wehrli followed a threat to the life of Switzerland's ambassador in Lebanon last year.

Relatives of people kidnapped by warring factions since the 1975 start of Lebanon's civil war meanwhile lifted a week-old blockade. (See page 2).

## Iraq reports raids on Iranians

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi jet fighters, helicopter gunships and gunners attacked Iranian "positions and forces" in the southern Misan zone of the common border Friday killing nine soldiers and scoring "direct hits on the stricken targets," a war communique issued here said. The Iranian soldiers were killed during intensified attacks by Iraqi helicopter gunships and gunners in Misan zone, about 300 kilometres southeast of here, according to the communique released by the general command of the Iraqi armed forces. Iraqi jet fighters, meanwhile, launched 131 bombing raids on Iranian forces in Misan zone of the 1,180-kilometre-long common border, the communique said.

## Kreisky proposing merger of all peace plans, Arafat says

ABU DHABI (AP) — Former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky has proposed merging all standing Middle East peace plans into one "European initiative" to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Friday.

The PLO leader told the Emirates News Agency WAM in an interview that the Kreisky proposal would be "studied at the highest (PLO) levels."

Mr. Arafat quoted Mr. Kreisky as citing four Middle East peace initiatives, which he thought should be combined into a single plan that would be "made acceptable to all parties" involved in the conflict.

These initiatives, he said, were: — The peace proposals that U.S. President Ronald Reagan put forward on Sept. 1, 1982 which called for Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza in association with Jordan. The PLO has dismissed these proposals as "unacceptable and insufficient" but stopped short of rejecting them outright.

— U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 which, according to the PLO, does clearly stipulate that all Israeli-occupied Arab territory be returned to the Arabs. It also refers to the Palestinians as refugees rather than a people. The resolution is generally regarded as the basis for subsequent peace initiatives between the Arabs and Israel. The PLO has rejected that.

— The Brezhnev proposal, issued by the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev which called for an international peace conference to solve the Middle East conflict.

— The Fez plan, announced by the Arab summit conference in Fez, Morocco, in 1982. The PLO and the rest of the Arabs favour this plan because it calls for an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza with the Arab sector of Jerusalem as its capital.

Mr. Arafat told WAM that "Mr. Kreisky believes that it is possible to produce a new initiative combining all the positive and common factors in all four previous plans... to satisfy all parties concerned."

Israel has accepted only 242. Mr. Arafat praised Mr. Kreisky as "an old friend of the Arabs and the Palestinians."

He said that Italy, the current chairman of the European Community (EC), "has begun moving to reach a new European initiative acceptable to all parties (in the Middle East) including the PLO."

He said that during his recent meeting in Tunisia with Italian Premier Bettino Craxi "I expressed the PLO's denunciation of the negative attitude (on the Middle East issue) by West Germany, Britain and France at the EC summit in Dublin," Ireland.

He said that three European powers had voiced the opinion that the Middle East peace-making process be left to the United States.

"I call upon the EC now to adopt an effective stance and devise a new initiative to solve the Middle East problem," Mr. Arafat told WAM.

## Lower House endorses budget

By Lami K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat has urged Arab oil-producing states to fulfil their commitments to Jordan following concern expressed by members of the Lower House of Parliament over the country's reliance on Arab aid and foreign loans.

"These financial pledges were decided by an Arab summit to enhance Jordan's defence capabilities as an Arab confrontation state to Israel, and thus no Arab country can possibly free itself from its commitments," he said.

Mr. Obaidat made his remarks at the end of a parliamentary session dedicated to discussing this year's JD 811.2 million budget, of which JD 183 million is estimated Arab aid. The session decided to approve the budget, which was presented by Finance Minister Hanna Odeh in mid-December.

Oil-producing Arab countries were committed by an Arab summit in 1979 to provide annual financial aid to Jordan, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The donors, except for Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, however, have failed to fulfil their commitments for financial and political reasons.

The resulting sharp decrease in

(Continued on page 3)

Lower House condemns Qawasmeh assassination, page 2

## Qawasmeh murder suspects under questioning, Arar says

CAIRO (Agencies) — Jordanian authorities are interrogating several people about the murder of a senior Palestinian official in Amman last Saturday, Interior Minister Suleiman Arar said Friday.

Mr. Arar told reporters after meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak: "Security forces have conducted an investigation, and several people were questioned. I cannot disclose their identities while the questioning is still in progress."

Fahd Al Qawasmeh, former mayor of the West Bank town of Hebron and a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, was shot dead outside his Amman home. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat blamed Syria.

Mr. Arar said he delivered a message from His Majesty King Hussein to Mr. Mubarak on bilateral relations and was taking back a reply from the Egyptian leader.

Mr. Arar had earlier met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul-Maguid and held talks with him on bilateral relations and new developments in the Arab arena.

Mr. Arar and his Egyptian counterpart, Lieutenant General Ahmad Rushdi, had held discussions on the possibility of concluding an agreement on security cooperation between the two countries.

Jordan restored diplomatic relations with Egypt in September after a five-year break caused by Egypt's 1979 separate peace treaty with Israel. Marking the renewed ties, Mr. Mubarak visited Jordan in October and King Hussein came to Egypt last month.



# Kidnapped Swiss diplomat still missing in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Militia and police investigators say they have found no trace of kidnapped Swiss Charge d'Affaires Eric Wehrli, the latest victim of a string of attacks on diplomats in Lebanon.

The state National News Agency (NNA) said unknown gunmen kidnapped Mr. Wehrli Thursday after he left the Swiss embassy in mainly Muslim west Beirut at midday to drive home.

Security sources said four gunmen forced Mr. Wehrli's diplomatic service car to stop, dragged him out and drove off with him. Shortly afterwards they returned to steal his car.

From east Beirut President Amin Gemayel helped in the search for Mr. Wehrli, telephoning west Beirut security officers and politicians to ask them to work for his release.

Nearly 12 hours after Mr. Wehrli's abduction, a spokesman for the Shiite Muslim Amal Movement that controls much of west Beirut said intensive searching had turned up no clues.

Swiss diplomats in Beirut could not be reached for comment and no claims of responsibility were

reported. It was the first attack on a Swiss target in Lebanon, although workmen three months ago put up anti-car-bomb barricades around the Swiss embassy.

Analysts speculated the kidnapping may be connected to the arrest at a Swiss Airport in November of a Lebanese carrying explosives. A group of Lebanese alleged to have been preparing to blow up the U.S. embassy in Rome was subsequently arrested.

Italian police linked the group to the radical Shiite "Islamic Jihad" organisation, which an anonymous caller told a Western news agency in Beirut is holding a U.S. political officer and a Saudi Arabian diplomat, both kidnapped in West Beirut last spring. Islamic Jihad callers have also claimed responsibility for the suicide truck bombings of two American embassies, a U.S. Marine base and a French military base in

Beirut over the last two years. Last year in west Beirut, young Shiite gunmen briefly held the Spanish ambassador. Unknown gunmen shot dead an Austrian attaché. Several embassy buildings were attacked.

Many major western embassies now work from the relatively orderly eastern sector of the capital.

## Swiss baffled

The Swiss government said Friday it had no clue why unknown gunmen had abducted the Swiss diplomat. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said no ransom demand had been made for the 43-year-old third secretary, who had been working in Beirut since 1982.

Mr. Wehrli had been standing in for Swiss Ambassador Paul-André Ramseyer, who was on holiday in Switzerland. Mr. Ramseyer has since returned to Beirut, the spokesman said.

The spokesman did not comment on speculation in Beirut linking the kidnapping with the arrest at a Swiss airport in November of a Lebanese carrying explosives.



ARAFAT SEEN OFF: Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri (second from right) confers with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the VIP lounge of the airport before Mr. Arafat's departure from Amman Friday (Petra photo)

## Beirut crossings reopen

BEIRUT (R) — Most crossings between east and west Beirut opened Friday morning as relatives of people kidnapped in Lebanon's civil war lifted a week-old blockade, residents and radio stations said.

Falange Radio said all crossings but two were open and that traffic was normal. Work was under way at the other two to remove obstacles still halting traffic.

People in west Beirut have been running short of fuel and bread as supply trucks have failed to cross from the eastern sector.

## Israel's population reaches 4,235,000

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's population was 4,235,000 at the end of 1984, of whom 3,500,000 were Jews, according to an estimate by Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics. The bureau noted that the figures do not reflect the results of the 1983 census.

The Jewish population grew by 82,000, which is 1.9 per cent and the non-Jewish population by 20,000, 2.8 per cent.

U.S. to give \$5m aid to settle Jews in Israel

AMMAN (Petra) — The United States will grant \$5 million as an additional aid to be allocated for settling Jewish immigrants in Israel, state radio said Thursday.

It added that the amount will be paid from a special White House fund.

## U.N. team to prepare for Gulf trip on Tuesday

GENEVA (R) — A three-man United Nations mission will meet in Geneva next Tuesday to prepare a trip to Iraq and Iran to investigate conditions of prisoners captured in the four-year-old Gulf war, a U.N. spokeswoman said Friday.

The mission members — Professor Torken Opsahl of Norway, General Rafael Angel Vale-Huerta of Venezuela, and Professor Wolfgang Karl of Austria — will meet officials of the International Red Cross Committee (ICRC).

During their Geneva stay, expected to last a few days, they will also study information provided by the Iraqi and Iranian governments, the spokeswoman said.

It was not yet known when the mission, which will go first to Iraq and then to Iran, will leave, she added.

Iran holds some 50,000 Iraqi war prisoners, and Iraq has about 10,000 Iranian captives, according to the spokeswoman.

## Three Britons arrested over missing Libyan

LONDON (Agencies) — Three Britons have been arrested in connection with the disappearance of a Libyan businessman who was awaiting trial, on bail, by a British court on drugs charges, police said Friday.

British newspapers described the businessman, Mohammad Shehli, as a brother-in-law of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. Police said the three were detained under the prevention of terrorism act Thursday as a result of their inquiries into the disappearance of Mr. Shehli last January.

Police sources said detectives had questioned two Britons, being held in Cairo as alleged Libyan "hit-men", about the disappearance.

British police went to Cairo before Christmas to interview the two men, Anthony Gill, 48, and

Geoffrey Shioer, 47, who were held after a failed attempt to assassinate an exiled former Libyan prime minister.

The Scotland Yard spokesman said he could not immediately confirm that Mr. Shehli was related to Col. Qadhafi. The British Broadcasting Corporation said Mr. Shehli has been described as Col. Qadhafi's brother-in-law.

Newspaper report said only that he was a relative.

The three Britons, whose names were not released, were picked up in pre-dawn swoops Thursday on houses in Puttles Bar, Hertfordshire, north of London, Earls Colne, Essex, north east of the capital and the south west London town of Budeleigh.

Under the Prevention of Terrorism Act suspects can be held for up to a week without charge.

## Lower House condemns Qawasmeh murder

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Thursday condemned the assassination of Fahd Al Qawasmeh, member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Executive Committee and former mayor of Hebron.

A statement issued by the House following Thursday's session said the assassination which occurred on Saturday in Amman was an aggression on the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples, and pledged that both banks will strengthen their determination

and resolutions to liberate the occupied lands and holy places. "The Lower House strongly deplores the crime and those who perpetrated it," the statement said.

In the statement, the House also condemned the mass and brutal murder by the Iranian regime of Iraqi prisoners of war. "This brutal act is in violation of Islamic principles," the statement said.

It called on all world nations to express their strong condemnation of the Iranian crimes.

## Israel plans to annex Arab lands, Ghali says

LONDON (Petra) — Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butros Ghali has warned against Israel's policies in the occupied Arab territories which he described as "aiming to remove the Arab character from Palestine."

Dr. Ghali was quoted in an interview with the Arabic weekly, Al Sharq Al Awsat, here as saying that Israel plans to annex the occupied Arab lands by decree "and its actions and measures are considered a threat to peace in the Middle East."

Dr. Ghali's statement followed reports from the occupied Arab regions which spoke of Israel's intentions to abrogate Jordanian laws in the Israeli held territory and to substitute them with Israeli

military laws.

"According to reports just out of the occupied lands, local Arab lawyers held a series of meetings in Jerusalem to consider Israel's measures and to study the consequences of the recent arson which occurred at Nablus law court where thousands of dossiers and files were burnt."

Reports said that the loss of the files which contained court minutes about 330 cases pertaining to land ownership in Nablus area will lead to many people losing their rights in these lands.

According to the reports, the Arab lawyers have set up a special follow-up committee to try to uncover the identity of the criminals which could have been backed by the Israeli authorities.

## 34 crewmen killed in Gulf tanker attacks, U.N. says

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations has said 34 crew have died in Gulf war incidents in seven months.

It said eight more had been listed as missing, 13 wounded, and four detailed as unspecified casualties.

The U.N. list said that of 38 vessels involved in the Gulf war incidents 20 were damaged by missiles between June 1 and Dec. 31, 1984.

Other ships were hit during air attacks by bombs or unspecified weaponry, struck mines, or came under bombardment while in harbour.

One incident involved only the interception, boarding and brief detention of a ship by an Iranian warship, but no attack.

The list was appended to a report on implementation of a resolution adopted by the Security Council on June 1 calling on all states to respect the right of free navigation.

The resolution also demanded an end to attacks on ships bound to and from states not parties to the Gulf war.

The main source of the U.N.'s information was the London-based International Maritime Organisation (IMO), a U.N. agency. In 11 cases, this was supplemented by data provided by ship's owners or charterers.

Meanwhile, a Greek-registered tanker hit in two missile attacks in the Gulf last month is still in dry dock at Dubai, awaiting a decision by the owners on whether to repair or scrap it, the ship's agents said Thursday.

## Ozal to visit U.S.

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal will pay a three-day official visit to the United States beginning on April 2 at the invitation of U.S. President Ronald Reagan. The Foreign Ministry announced Friday.

Mr. Ozal, Turkey's first elected premier since three years of military rule in 1980-1983, will meet Mr. Reagan at the White House

on April 2, the announcement said.

Mr. Ozal, who as a deputy premier devalued Turkey's 1980 economic recovery programme, became premier when his Motherland Party won a parliamentary majority in November 1983 elections which restored civilian rule in Turkey.

## TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	21:05	Country Music
MAIN CHANNEL	21:55	News Summary
Morning Program	22:00	Play of the Week
08:00	22:05	Classical Concert
08:30	22:10	News Headlines
08:50	22:15	Children's Program
09:00	22:20	English Teaching
09:30	22:25	First Aid
10:00	22:30	Korea
10:30	22:35	Cartoons
11:00	22:40	Children's Program
11:30	22:45	Animals Animals
12:00	22:50	Candid Camera
12:30	22:55	Local Program
13:00	23:00	Programme Review
13:30	23:05	News in Arabic
14:00	23:10	Arabic Series
14:30	23:15	Programme Review
15:00	23:20	Arabic Series
15:30	23:25	News in Arabic
16:00	23:30	Film Comed.
16:30	23:35	Film Comed.
17:00	23:40	Film Comed.
17:30	23:45	Film Comed.
18:00	23:50	Film Comed.
18:30	23:55	Film Comed.
19:00	24:00	Film Comed.
19:30	24:05	Film Comed.
20:00	24:10	Film Comed.
20:30	24:15	Film Comed.
21:00	24:20	Film Comed.
21:30	24:25	Film Comed.
22:00	24:30	Film Comed.
22:30	24:35	Film Comed.
23:00	24:40	Film Comed.
23:30	24:45	Film Comed.
24:00	24:50	Film Comed.
24:30	24:55	Film Comed.
25:00	25:00	Film Comed.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	21:05	Country Music
EXHIBITIONS	21:55	News Summary
22:00	22:00	Play of the Week
22:05	22:05	Classical Concert
22:10	22:10	News Headlines
22:15	22:15	Children's Program
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22:50	22:50	Candid Camera
22:55	22:55	Local Program
23:00	23:00	Programme Review
23:05	23:05	News in Arabic
23:10	23:10	Arabic Series
23:15	23:15	Programme Review
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23:25	23:25	News in Arabic
23:30	23:30	Film Comed.
23:35	23:35	Film Comed.
23:40	23:40	Film Comed.
23:45	23:45	Film Comed.
23:50	23:50	Film Comed.
23:55	23:55	Film Comed.
24:00	24:00	Film Comed.
24:05	24:05	Film Comed.
24:10	24:10	Film Comed.
24:15	24:15	Film Comed.
24:20	24:20	Film Comed.
24:25	24:25	Film Comed.
24:30	24:30	Film Comed.
24:35	24:35	Film Comed.
24:40	24:40	Film Comed.
24:45	24:45	Film Comed.
24:50	24:50	Film Comed.
24:55	24:55	Film Comed.
25:00	25:00	Film Comed.

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT	MARITIME TRAFFIC
This information is supplied by Air Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. (08) 532,50, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.	Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba Port:
ARRIVALS	— Badre
06:50 Cairo (MS)	— Alkindi
07:30 Aqaba (RJ)	— Mafraq Musafir
07:30 Dubai, Karachi (RJ)	— Agatha
08:45 Cairo (RJ)	— Lofallah
09:45 Jeddah (RJ)	— Thita Zinc
09:45 Kuwait (RJ)	
09:55 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	
09:55 Laraca, Damascus (RJ)	
10:10 Damascus (RJ)	
10:20 Beirut (RJ)	
10:45 Riyadh (RJ)	
10:45 Singapore, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	
12:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)	
14:40 Kuwait (KU)	
14:50 Baghdad (IA)	
17:30 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)	
18:30 Paris, Damascus (AF)	
18:30 Cairo (RJ)	
19:45 Tripoli (RJ)	
20:40 Rome, Damascus (AZ)	
20:40 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)	
22:20 Cairo (MS)	
22:30 Swedish crown (44.8)	
08:45 Cairo (RJ)	
01:10 Baghdad (IA)	
01:30 Bucharest, Laraca (RO)	
DEPARTURES	
08:45 Cairo (RJ)	
08:50 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)	
07:00 Beirut (RJ)	
07:15 Cairo (RJ)	
07:50 Cairo (MS)	
08:15 Beirut (MEA)	
08:30 Athens (OA)	
11:15 Tripoli (RJ)	
11:30 Athens (RJ)	
11:50 Athens (RJ)	
12:00 London (RJ)	
12:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)	
12:30 Frankfurt (RJ)	
14:30 Rome, Paris (RJ)	
14:30 Bahrain (GF)	
14:50 Kuwait (KU)	
17:30 Baghdad (IA)	
18:30 Kuwait (RJ)	
20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)	
20:45 Athens (RJ)	
21:10 Baghdad (IA)	
22:20 Cairo (MS)	
02:40 Laraca, Bucharest (RO)	

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES	24027	Dr. Fayed H. Jalloua
Ambulance	193, 775111	
Fire, fire, police	199	
Blood bank	775121	
Civil Defence rescue	661111	
Fire headquarters	2200-93	
Police rescue	192, 2111, 37777	
Police headquarters	39141	
Traffic police	36390-1	
Electric Power Co.	36381-2	
Samir pharmacy	58545	
Mahe pharmacy	666337	
Musa pharmacy	71326	
TAXIS		
Khayyam taxi	41841	
Bassem Palace taxi	411857	
Sayah taxi	43265	
Husseini taxi	21776	
Khalid taxi	664888	
Abil taxi	21127	
IRBID		
Dr. Mohammad Ta'ani	3711	
Ghazwan pharmacy	73791	
ZARQA		
Dr. Mahmoud A. Abu Mahfouz	(-)	
Abu Leil pharmacy	(-)	
GENERAL		
Jordan Television	77311	
Radio	77411	
Ministry of Tourism	42311	
Hotel complaints	666412	
Price complaints	661176	
Telephone:		
Information	12	
Jordan and Middle East calls	10	
Overseas calls	17	
Cable or telegram	17	
Repair service	11	
MARKET PRICES		
Upper/lower price in kg per kg		
Apple (double red)	230/180	
Apple (golden)	230/180	
Apple (marken)	230/180	
Banana (Mekammar)	240/210	
Beans	370/320	
Broad beans	750/700	
Cabbage	120/90	
Chestnut	640/570	
Carrot	130/100	
Cauliflower	230/180	
Cucumber (large)	250/200	
Cucumber (small)	460/400	
Eggplant (large)	140/120	
Eggplant (small)	160/120	
Garlic	180/130	
Grapes	150/120	
Lemon	100/70	
Lettuce (per one)	120/90	
Mallow	300/250	
Mandarin	170/140	
Marrow (large)	300/250	
Marrow (small)	300/250	
Onion (dry)	170/140	
Onion (green)	140/100	
Okra	650/550	
Oranges (Abu Surra)	230/160	
Oranges (Shamouti)	190/150	
Parsley	80/60	
Pears (American)	540/480	
Pepper (sweet)	770/320	
Pepper (hot green)	330/300	
Potatoes (local)	180/140	
Radishes	90/60	
Spinach	130/100	
Tomatoes	220/160	
Turnip	130/100	

السلامة في البيت



## Lower House endorses 1985 budget

(Continued from page 1)

"We totally believe that it is our right to do so since the issue is inextricably linked with maintaining our national independence and defending the Arab Nation," he said.

The prime minister noted with a tone of disappointment that for many Arabs the fact that "Jordan maintains the longest front line with Israel has apparently lost its meaning and the dangerous threats it embodies have been forgotten."

"All Arabs have to understand that this remains a fact that we deeply feel and live everyday," he said.

Earlier in the session, the House Financial Committee, which approved the 1985 budget, appealed to the United Arab Emirates and Qatar to fulfil their commitments. Iraq cannot pay due to the costs of its four-year war with Iran and Libya refuses to meet its commitment because of political reasons.

A considerable number of West Bank deputies warned that the failure of Arab states to pay their financial commitments would only help "Israeli schemes to evacuate the Israeli occupied Arab territories from the Palestinian inhabitants."

They pointed out to the deteriorating economic situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip due to "measures by the Israeli occupation authorities that suffocate all Arab efforts to develop the occupied territories' agriculture and industries."

The deputies, however, indicated that lack of planning and coordination on the part of Jordan and the PLO in allocating the available steadfastness money has also worked to reduce the effectiveness of their use in the occupied territories. Ramallah Deputy Musa Abu Ghosh strongly criticised the draft budget for 1985 for its failure to mention the amount allocated for the steadfastness funds and the procedures and measures that will be taken to decide how and where they will be spent.

Mr. Abu Ghosh charged that the measures that have been taken so far have "actually defeated their purpose and have not contributed to enhancing the steadfastness of our people."

Other deputies also attacked the policies followed by the joint Jordanian-PLO committee in support of the people in the Israeli-occupied territories. They implied that there was unfairness in distributing the aid and loans and that the money channelled into the West Bank and Gaza Strip was not helping in developing the economy.

Deputy of Bethlehem Rabbi Mustafa urged the Industrial Development Bank to provide softer and long-term loans for the people in the occupied territories and called on the government to increase the efficiency of civil service employees.

Edward Khamis, also a Bethlehem deputy, called on the joint Jordanian-PLO committee to collect the due instalments on loans

that have not been repaid so that the money can be used in aiding other people.

He accused the committee of "lending thousands to those who do not deserve it and who have deposited the money in foreign banks instead of using them to develop investment in the occupied territories." Although Mr. Khamis did not support his argument with figures and specific information, the accusation he made reflected what many people who visit Amman from the West Bank claim.

Other deputies drew the attention of the government to the increase in unemployment among university graduates in the occupied territories and Jerusalem Deputy Daoud Suleiman Daoud suggested that a comprehensive plan for the development of the Israeli-occupied territories be formulated in coordination with the Ministry of Planning.

In reply to the deputies' observations, Mr. Obaidat said that the Ministry of the Occupied Territories Affairs is implementing developmental programmes for the West Bank that can serve as a plan. He agreed that there is a need for a separate comprehensive developmental plan.

"The Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs will formulate a plan for the development of the occupied territories that will be incorporated in the next five-year development plan of Jordan," he said.

Referring to remarks made by Mr. Mustafa, Mr. Obaidat said that a special ministerial committee has been set up to handle the scale of civil service employees in the occupied West Bank and to appoint new people with the efficiency and skill to replace those who retire or have their term of employment terminated or die.

In regard to employees appointed after 1967, Mr. Obaidat pointed out that they continue to get salaries from the occupation authorities and these salaries are linked with the cost of living index. "Figures available to us indicate that these employees now receive 10 to 15 per cent less salaries than their colleagues in the East Bank," he said.

The prime minister pledged that the government will give due attention to the problem of unemployed people in the occupied West Bank and "we intend to employ between 1,000 and 1,500 people with various educational specialisations to work for the Ministry of Education in the East Bank within an arrangement that would ensure that these people will maintain their ties with their families in the West Bank and their rights there."

"Employing these citizens in the East Bank will have a positive impact since the money will help support the steadfastness of the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and at the same time ensure their return to their homeland on schedule," he said.

Mr. Obaidat disclosed that instructions have been sent out for the employment of 400 of these citizens, but 150 of them have so

far failed to report for work although they now live in the East Bank. "If they do not take up their jobs, I regret to say that they will be ordered to return to the West Bank because it is pointless for them to stay here with no work," he warned.

Replying to remarks by Mr. Mustafa on loans and grants, Mr. Obaidat explained that the joint Jordanian-PLO committee does not deal directly with the citizens in the occupied territories but rather through banks in the East Bank. "The Industrial Development Bank offers loans for industries in the West Bank, the Housing Bank offers loans for housing purposes and the Cooperative Bank gives loans for agricultural projects in accordance with established principles and norms," he said.

The prime minister disagreed with Mr. Khamis' claim that many people have not paid back the money they had borrowed. "I can say that 95 per cent of the loans is being collected back on a regular basis, and procedures are being carried out to collect the rest," he said.

During Thursday's discussion many deputies warned of the consequences of the country's dependence on foreign loans. But the most severe constructive criticism came from the House Financial Committee which recommended a curb on expenditure to reduce the country's reliance on foreign loans.

The committee's report, read by Deputy of Amman Leith Eshbeilat, pointed out that annual interest due on foreign debts have reached JD 58.55 million in 1984 compared to JD 36.56 million in 1983.

The report estimated interest due on foreign debt will reach JD 75.66 million in 1985 and JD 106.78 million in 1989.

But, the prime minister told the parliament that the amount of Jordan's foreign debt did not constitute a problem in the country. "I would like to point out that the burden of Jordan's foreign debts is acceptable by all economic and financial standards," Mr. Obaidat said.

He explained that most of the loans which Jordan acquired came from Arab, regional or international institutions concerned with development. They are all long-term loans which bear a relatively low-interest rate, he said. "These loans have been used to finance development projects in Jordan which are designed to help boost the country's exports and reduce imports. This policy will help to save foreign currency which in turn can be used to pay back the loans," he said.

The prime minister explained that the government resorted to borrowing from international financial markets at the prevailing interest rates to make up for the decrease in Arab financial aid over the past few years. These loans form only 10 per cent of the total national exports and money transfers by Jordanian expatriates employed in other countries spread over the next five years.

شكر الامانة



Hassan meets Chinese Team: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met at his office Thursday with a delegation from the Fujian province in China led by the Deputy Governor of the province Chiang Yi. During the meeting they discussed economic and technical cooperation between China and Jordan. China's Ambassador to Jordan Huang Shixie attended the meeting. (Petra photo)

## Nawaiseh criticises 'land for peace' principle to solve Palestinian issue

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A member of the Lower House of Parliament Thursday criticised the principle of exchanging land for peace as a basis for a comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian question saying that it has no political, historical or logical foundations.

Dr. Riad Nawaiseh, who was speaking at a parliamentary session to debate the 1985 budget, said that the principle of exchanging territory for peace cannot be achieved due to its lack of foundations.

The Karak deputy did not elaborate on the point and was not available for further comment, but his remarks in the session clearly reflected a disagreement with the government's policies regarding the search for a peaceful solution for the Middle East crisis.

His Majesty King Hussein has called on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to formulate a joint political initiative based on United Nations Resolution 242 which endorsed the formula of exchanging land for peace. As a whole, the Lower House had, in a previous session, expressed total support for the King's proposed strategy but it seemed that Dr. Nawaiseh seized the opportunity of the budget debate to express his differences from his peers.

Dr. Nawaiseh, who was elected to parliament during the by-elections last March, also attacked



Riad Nawaiseh

Jordan's restoration of full diplomatic relations with Egypt.

"The resumption of full diplomatic and political relations with Egypt was carried out within the context of a specific strategy to make peace with the Zionist entity," he said. "This strategy is incompatible with a previous accord that Egypt is still committed to."

Camp David accord

Dr. Nawaiseh was clearly referring to the American-sponsored Camp David agreement. Ever since the restoration of diplomatic ties with Egypt last September, Jordanian officials have repeatedly stated that Jordan is still opposed to the Camp David accord and that the Jordanian step

was aimed at enhancing Arab solidarity.

But Dr. Nawaiseh expressed strong disagreement to the government's argument. "Arab solidarity cannot be achieved unless this accord which was endorsed by Egypt is changed," he said. "Arab solidarity should be based on forging and mobilising all efforts for the struggle to restore the legitimate Arab rights," he added.

Another deputy, Dr. Musa Abu Ghosh, expressed the view that force is the only means to retrieve the Israeli occupied territories.

Dr. Abu Ghosh, who represents the Israeli occupied West Bank town of Ramallah, did not discuss any specific political strategies and was more implicit in his criticisms than Dr. Nawaiseh. He indicated clearly, however, that he did not believe that a peaceful settlement can render the

"Our armed forces are our means and hope in restoring our usurped rights," he said. "Force alone can save our people from the Israeli occupation and anything which follows any other means will be just wasted effort and will not restore any of our rights," he added.

In general, most of the 22 deputies who spoke on Thursday did not tackle political issues in depth but voiced support for the King's policies and for the talks between Jordan and the PLO on joint political moves to find a solution to the Palestinian question.

## Hamarneh: U.S. aid to Israel obstructs just settlement

By Sa'ad G. Hattar  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ministry of Information Under Secretary Michael Hamarneh Thursday charged that the American economic and military aid to Israel has been the major obstacle against finding a just and durable solution to the Middle East problem. He said that this aid is spent on establishing Israeli settlements on occupied Arab lands.

Mr. Hamarneh also outlined Israeli arbitrary and oppressive measures and practices against the Arab population in the occupied territories, which, he said, violate international laws and United Nations resolutions.

Mr. Hamarneh was speaking at a meeting with an American delegation representing the international relations club at Washington's Georgetown University, who arrived in Amman on Thursday on a fact-finding tour of the region and to research the political dynamics in Arab society. Mr. Hamarneh reviewed Jordan's stand and relentless efforts for finding a just and durable solution for the Palestine problem on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.

He briefed the delegation about the great progress and trends that Jordan has witnessed in the education, health, agriculture and transport fields within the last two decades.

Badran meets delegation

Later Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran met with the delegation at the Yarmouk University Liaison Office in Amman during which he briefed the delegation on the university's establishment, sections, administration, activities and future projects and its interaction with

Arab and local communities. Dr. Badran said that Jordan's strength depends on qualified manpower, especially since it is not an oil exporting country. He also pointed out the burden Jordan is shouldering because of its geographical position on the longest front facing Israel.

Dr. Badran said that illegal Israeli measures directly affect Jordan, especially the forced emigration policy against Palestinian citizens, and put an extra load on the Jordanian government. Dr. Badran added that the present Jordanian situation has taught Jordanian citizen an essential lesson and has urged them to seek higher education.

He then pointed out Yarmouk University's interaction with local society especially in Irbid Governorate and stressed the importance of the media, including Yarmouk University's press department and its publications. Dr. Badran then expressed his hope that the university could soon communicate with citizens in Irbid through local television and radio stations.

At the end of the meeting Dr. Badran presented the university's shield and logo to Mr. Juanderson, president of the International Relations Club and to Dr. Wadie Haddad from Harvard University and to the rest of the delegation members.

## Badran stresses importance of graduating qualified personnel

AMMAN (Petra) — Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran Thursday stressed the importance of graduating highly qualified students from the Universities of Jordan and Yarmouk in order to serve the educational process in Jordan at the local and pan-Arab levels.

Dr. Badran, who was speaking during a party held in honour of the private and public pharmaceutical institutions, said that support and effort are among the most important factors contributing to graduating highly qual-

ified personnel.

"Dr. Badran expressed his satisfaction at the achievement of the Faculty of Pharmacy in giving students practical training at private and the government pharmacies and laboratories."

Speaking about the pharmacy study plan at the University, Faculty of Pharmacy Dean Adnan Daqouri said that it included two courses for clinical pharmacy and remedial drugs in addition to other courses concentrating on diseases.

## King, Andreotti review peace efforts

(Continued from page 1)

Middle East conflict.

Mr. Andreotti, who assumed the presidency of the EC on Tuesday, accompanied Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi on a tour which took them to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria since Nov. 17 to study the possibility of a Middle East peace initiative.

The Italian foreign minister arrived in Amman shortly after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat left for the United Arab Emirates after a six-day visit to Jordan and talks with King Hussein.

Mr. Arafat met with Mr. Andreotti and Mr. Craxi in Tunis last month. Mr. Craxi was quoted later as saying the PLO has opted for a peaceful Middle East solution and urged Palestinian leaders to form a common negotiating stand with Jordan.

Mr. Craxi, who has pledged to

launch a Middle East peace initiative during Italy's presidency of the EC, said a joint negotiating stand would "accelerate the peace process."

The community has for years been trying to find ways of ending the Middle East conflict, but has been careful not to impede efforts by the United States, which in 1982 produced a peace plan later rejected by Israel and Arab countries.

A statement on the Middle East after the Dublin EC summit said it was vital to make new efforts on negotiations for a peace settlement. It condemned as illegal Israel's policy of building Jewish settlements in occupied Arab territories.

Mr. Andreotti is scheduled to leave Amman Saturday after further talks with King Hussein and other Jordanian officials.

Later on Friday, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri received Mr. Andreotti and briefed him on the latest developments of the Middle East and stressed that holding an international conference for peace is the only means for establishing peace in the area, Petra said.

Mr. Masri outlined the importance of holding the suggested international peace conference and called for EC participation in overcoming any obstacles facing the convening of such a conference, Petra said.

Mr. Masri pointed out to the significance of conciliation between the United States and the Soviet Union, saying that features of such conciliation will be crystallised during the forthcoming meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

By Olga Mikhail  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani has given insurance companies extra time to abide by the provisions of a law for the control of insurance companies operating in Jordan. The minister said that Jan. 8 will be the last date for these companies to conform to the provisions of the law otherwise their licences will be withdrawn.

So far 30 out of 33 insurance companies operating in Jordan have abided by the law and have deposited, as required, part of their accounts in Jordan and have acquired shares in development projects.

According to recent measures, insurance companies should have a total of JD 9.5 million deposited in cash and shares in Jordan up from JD 1.5 million. The new insurance law, issued by the insurance control department at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, aims to secure full benefits for the community in Jordan and to protect the insured from any arbitrary action by insurance companies.

The new law, effective January 16, 1985 amends many articles in the previous law. One of the amended articles stipulates on increase in paid up capital from JD 100,000 to JD 600,000 for all national insurance companies. Two years was given as the time limit for these companies to either increase their capital or to merge together.

The new insurance law, issued on Dec. 16, also provides great incentives for national insurance companies to merge together. Incentives include exemption from tax and customs for the transfer of property and assets, and permission has been given to companies that are willing to merge together to re-evaluate their fixed assets including land values.

As for the deposits paid by the insurance companies, the new law does not amend any article concerning this issue. Rather, the amount to be paid as a deposit is still the same as mentioned in the temporary insurance law issued in

## Anani allows more time for companies to follow insurance law

January 1984. The national insurance companies must pay JD 75,000 for each of the fire insurance, accident insurance including motor accidents, and transportation risk insurance. Also, JD 100,000 must be deposited for each of the life insurance, savings and capital generating insurance policies if the company practices these kinds of insurance.

Increasing deposits

Concerning agencies operating in Jordan, the law does not ask for an increase in their capital, but for an increase in their deposits to JD 100,000 for each of fire insurance, accident insurance including motor accidents — and transportation risk insurance. If the agency is practising life insurance, savings and capital generating insurance, it must deposit JD 150,000 for each of the above mentioned types of insurance.

According to the law, 25 per cent of the money must be deposited in cash under the name of minister of industry and trade, and the rest to be invested in forms of shares and bonds and to be mortgaged in the name of the minister of industry and trade.

These deposits to be paid by the insurance companies aim to protect the rights of the insured in case the national insurance company or the agency were unable to compensate the insured for his losses for any reason, or in case the agency decided to leave Jordan without paying all its commitments to the insured for financial reasons. Another objective is to commit these companies to invest its money in many developmental projects that serve the economic development in Jordan.

The insurance control department at the Ministry of Industry and Trade is playing a major role in reorganising the local insurance sector especially in the fields of claim settlements between insurance companies and insured persons or companies and in supervising the business of insurance in Jordan.

Insurance offers a feeling of security against various hazards.

Members of a community, each subject to similar risks, pay a yearly premium that goes into a common fund in order to reimburse claimed losses. Insurance is a specialised business that needs a lot of organisation and supervision. In developed countries, the business of insurance is subject to government supervision because it affects so many people and so much property. The government regulates the actions of insurance agents and companies, interprets policy provisions and handle the relationship between the companies and their policy holders.

'Small print, loopholes'

"In Jordan insurance policy is governed by lots of small print and loopholes that the insured is incapable of noticing unless he faces troubles. Also the articles mentioned in the civil law concerning insurance are not efficient and do not handle the insurance policy," Mr. Radi Ibrahim, director of the insurance control department at the Ministry of Industry and Trade told the Jordan Times. "As a result of all this, the Jordanian government has been unable to take punitive measures against insurance companies which do not comply with the law," he added.

The insurance control department, Mr. Ibrahim continued, this year came out with a new and satisfactory standardised formula where the government has the authority to study any policy issued in Jordan, and to modify and amend any arbitrary article. "The new law simplifies conditions and cuts down on the exemptions mentioned widely in the insurance policies around town," Mr. Ibrahim said. "The new law, especially the increasing of capital, will give more responsibility to the insurance companies and good retention for the reinsurance companies will help keep more premiums in the country instead of transferring them outside Jordan. It will increase the investment of these companies in various developmental projects," he explained.

The insurance industry in Jordan was affected, as were other sectors, by many factors, mainly the general economic recession in 1984 especially in the fields of industrial and developmental projects which reflected badly on the activities of the insurance companies. The marine insurance premiums, as an example have dropped from JD 2.4 million in 1983 to JD 2.1 million in 1984.

Mr. Ibrahim highlighted the main factors that affected the insurance business during the year 1984 as "the competition on insurance rates, especially for big governmental institutions and industrial companies, which resulted in lowering the insurance rates, thus reflecting badly on the level of services presented by these companies. Also, it was noticeable that many international reinsurance companies withdrew from the Jordanian insurance market during 1984 because the local insurance companies could not meet the conditions and requirements of these reinsurance companies," Mr. Ibrahim continued.

Explaining about reinsurance, Mr. Ibrahim said: "Although one company may issue a policy covering a very high risk, it usually transfers or cedes any excess risk above its own retention limits to a reinsurance company so that no single company faces the prospect of making compensation for the entire loss."

He also pinpointed the facts that 1984 premiums or fees that did not exceed JD 25 million and that the compensations paid during the same year dropped by 9 per cent than that of 1983, both of which affected the insurance sector.

Financial problems

Another factor that affected the insurance industry in Jordan was the financial problems that faced many insurance companies. "These financial problems were a result of certain administrative reasons, competition on insurance rates between companies and the increase of claims under settlements," Mr. Ibrahim said.

"In spite of all the incentives that the insurance control department provides for the national insurance companies to merge together, these companies still prefer to increase their capital rather than merge together even though it may be very difficult for them to increase their capital to JD 600,000," he added.

In order to overcome the financial and administrative problems facing the insurance companies, these companies must merge together to bring back the normal balance to the Jordanian market, Mr. Ibrahim said. "In Jordan there are 33 insurance companies and the premiums collected by these companies did not exceed JD 25 million, in 1984. Merging together will improve the level of services presented to the insured, will save on their administrative expenses, will attract the best technical and administrative qualifications that our companies lack at the moment and will also regain confidence in the national insurance industry, especially in the international reinsurance markets," he added.

Transfer of premiums

Another important factor that characterises the Jordanian insurance market, as any other market in developing countries, is the large amount of premiums transferred to reinsurance companies outside Jordan, which affects the balance of payments and the national economy. Mr. Ibrahim continued. "The only successful solution to these problems is to limit the number of the insurance companies by limiting their assets, investments and technical qualifications," he said.

"In order to stop the transfer of foreign currency outside the country, the insurance control department is studying the possibility of establishing a national reinsurance company that would play the role of a technical controller to the insurance companies and to build bridges with the Arabic and international reinsurance markets," he concluded.

Another factor that affected the insurance industry in Jordan was the financial problems that faced many insurance companies. "These financial problems were a result of certain administrative reasons, competition on insurance rates between companies and the increase of claims under settlements," Mr. Ibrahim said.

The insurance industry in Jordan

## Arafat leaves after high-level talks

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Arafat was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, General Intelligence Department Director-General Tareq Allaeiddine and Royal Court Secretary-General Rajai Dajani.

Apart from Mr. Arafat, the Palestinian side at the meeting was represented by PNC Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sach, PLO Political Department head Farouk Kaddumi, PLO Executive Committee members, Abdul Rahim Ahmad, Jawid Ghousein, Mohammad Milhem, Brigadier Abdul Razak Al Yahya, and Bishop Elias Khouri, and PNC Central Committee members Khabil Al Wazir and Hani Al Hassan.

Also on Thursday, Mr. Masri received in his office Mr. Kaddumi and held talks with him on joint Jordanian-Palestinian action, Petra said. It said Mr. Masri and Mr. Kaddumi discussed Jordan-PLO relations within the framework of joint peace moves as outlined in King Hussein's call for a joint political initiative.

The King's proposal, made at the opening of the PNC session in Amman, called for a joint initiative based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 which rules out the admissibility of securing other people's land by force and calls for total Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories occupied since 1967.

The LO has rejected 242 because the resolution refers to the Palestinians as refugees and does not provide for an independent Palestinian state.

At the conclusion of the PNC meeting, the PLO Executive Committee was charged with studying the King's proposal and replying to it.

According to an Associated Press dispatch, a sub-committee of the PLO Executive Committee is to begin meetings next week with Jordanian officials on detailed discussions on the King's proposal.

Mr. Arafat was seen off from Amman Friday by Mr. Masri, Foreign Ministry Protocol Department Assistant Director Akram Qussous, Brig. Yahya, Mr. Arafat's office director in Amman Najeeb Al Ahmad and senior PLO officials.

PLO Executive Committee member Ghousein and PNC Revolutionary Council member Nabil Amr accompanied Mr. Arafat.



# Jordan Times

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## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

### Al Ra'i: An Arab obligation

THE DEBATE carried out by the prime minister and the Lower House of Parliament members Thursday on the draft state budget for the year 1985 tackled the issue of Arab aid to Jordan clearly, frankly and sincerely.

In his replies to the deputies' queries, Mr. Obaidat made it clear that Arab aid should not be listed either by us or by Arab brethren under the item of strategic aid, because they are an expression of national commitments approved by Arab summit conferences. They are not granted on the grounds that they are coming from those who have sufficient assets to those who do not have them. They constitute a part of the support the front line countries are entitled to.

Our steadfastness, building our forces and providing them with developed arms are not only for self-defence but also for defending the whole Arab World and the existence of the Arab people, who are a target of the multi-phase Zionist plans. Hence we see that we represent the internal Arab front which should not be weakened or shaken and consider ourselves as the spearhead which should not be allowed to become blunt or be broken.

Therefore Arab aid is one of our rights, a right attached to our national independence, which is the guarantee for defending our land and existence.

Failure by some Arab countries to meet their financial commitments to us will not alter our position and won't touch upon our insistence on implementing the programme to which we are committed. It is not a mere national duty, but a pan-Arab obligation to maintain the strength and steadfastness of the Arab front.

It is our duty to thank Arab brethren who stood by us and fulfilled their obligations and to remind those who defaulted that history won't forgive their default, and that our strength is a strength for Arabs and that our weakness is a weakness for all of them.

### Sawt Al Shaab: National, pan-Arab responsibilities

THE DEMOCRATIC debate between the people's representatives and government, which the House of Parliament witnessed Thursday, was not only a debate over figures in the state budget, but also a debate over the future steps of our Jordanian march over the next stage. The state's financial and economic position was clear through a number of figures, titles and objectives, which all together indicated the country's stability, freedom and democracy. It also reflected the spirit of social justice and constructive dialogue.

In his replies to the deputies' queries, Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat explained frankly and clearly the true situation regarding the country's national development effort as expressed by the budget.

In addition to the commitments warranted by the nature of the stage we are currently passing through and the circumstances of Israel's occupation of Arab territories, the Arab Nation has entrusted us with building our self Arab force and supporting our national and pan-Arab security through supplying our army with needed arms.

Despite the great tasks and burdens Jordan is shouldering in implementing its plans and development projects, it is still supporting our kinsmen in the occupied Arab territories to maintain their heroic steadfastness in the face of Zionist plans to annex and Judaize the occupied territories.

Therefore, working for a five-year development plan for the West Bank is a Jordanian effort which should receive the support of the brotherly Arab countries because it aims at preserving the land and maintaining its identity.

The present budget marks the start of a new stage and is an outcome of a national effort, whose success depends on the intervention of all citizens at their different levels and on their participation in the national effort which translates figures into facts and hopes and aspirations into realities.

Thursday's

### Al Ra'i: A crime against Jordan

KING HUSSEIN has stressed that the killing of Fahd Al Qawasmeh will not go without punishment. It is not a heroic act nor is it a major act of bravery to assassinate a man who devoted all his life for his homeland. The killers of Qawasmeh are criminals and deserve punishment especially as they have offered the Israeli enemy a great service by eliminating a true freedom fighter. Qawasmeh has become another martyr in the long chain of Palestinian heroes who fell in the course of their struggle to regain their Palestinian homeland from the Israeli enemy. The criminals who killed him have served the purpose of the enemy which aims at destroying the Palestinian people's steadfastness and driving it into despair.

King Hussein emphasised on a delegation from Hebron and to the relatives of the late Qawasmeh that the assassins will eventually receive the proper punishment and that the crime was directed against Jordan and Palestine alike and it is designed to draw a wedge between the two peoples and to weaken their steadfastness and struggle.

### Al Dustour: Deployment plan working

REPORTS FROM Lebanon indicate that the real militias and the Lebanese government have reached agreement on the deployment of the Lebanese army in the South and along the coastal strip south of Beirut down to the Awali River. If the Lebanese army is safely deployed according to plan, this will give the Lebanese government another triumph and will consolidate its position at the Naqurah talks on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from South Lebanon.

Israel has so far been casting doubt on the Lebanese army's ability and efficiency to assume its mission in the event of an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. But the successful deployment of the army will give renewed credibility to the Lebanese government and will abort Israeli plans to prolong the stay of its troops in the south.

Therefore, we now warn against a new adventure that Israel might carry out in the region to abort the deployment of the Lebanese army and we hope that the Lebanese government will meet success in its drive to restore peace in Lebanon.

### Sawt Al Shaab: PLO unity first

ON THE 20th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, the Palestine Liberation Organisation finds itself still facing problems and obstacles in the march for achieving its objectives. There are factors that are unfavourable to this revolution and there are plotters that conspire against it and that tend to sap its power and divert the PLO from the basic objective: the liberation of Palestine.

Two decades after the revolution had been born and after so many sacrifices offered for the sake of Palestine the PLO finds itself affected by the Arab situation and the differences among Arab states. The PLO and the revolution, which have successfully gone through the ordeals of Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the siege of Beirut and Tripoli and the continued attempts to liquidate it, should concentrate efforts on unity and the common objective. The PLO has great responsibilities and burdens, but despite that, it has the ability to overcome all obstacles and free the Palestinians and liberate the occupied homeland.

## Sharing the worries of a Bahraini friend

By Musa Keilani

THE WORRIES of a Bahraini friend of mine can be easily shared by many people here in Jordan. The increase in aerial attacks by Iraqi and Iranian bombers threatens with escalating the Gulf war, which will lead to a deterioration the price of which is to be paid by the people of the region. The continuation of the war makes the national Arab economy a real loser while the super-powers enjoy the cash deposits paid for Super-ETendard aircrafts, and sophisticated spare parts. Whenever the Hormuz Straits are threatened to be closed or an oil tanker is hit, the "civilised" world remembers the

"forgotten war", otherwise, no mention is made of the daily casualties in the Western media. So far \$20 billion have been contributed by the Gulf countries to Iraq since Sept. 22, 1980 to help in the war effort. This \$20 billion along with \$12 billion offered earlier, reached the coffers of arms dealers instead of being used for irrigation schemes and development.

Bahrainis are worried by the ambitions of the Trotsky of Islam, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The Iranian broadcasts venerate the holy duty of cleansing the Middle East Augean stables of reactionary

rulers. The westward trend of the Iranian revolution is aimed at Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the rest of the GCC states, Jordan, Egypt and Palestine.

All attempts, whether discreet or open, to steer the Iranian revolution eastward have failed. So, a vanquished Iraq would create an Iranian threat not only to the Gulf countries but to Jordan and Egypt as well. It will be a threat not only in the military sense, but politically and psychologically as well. It is a known fact that a minimum of 55 per cent of the Bahraini population are Shi'ites. As for Kuwait, they are 29 per cent, not to mention the

Shi'ites in the oil rich eastern province of Saudi Arabia. Ayatollah Mohammad Buqer Al-Sader, before his death in an Iraqi jail, made sure that each Arab Shi'ite community has strong organised cadres of his underground party of Hizb Al-Da'wa Al-Islamia. Some party members made an abortive attempt against the Al-Khalifa rule in Bahrain in early December, 1981. Only two years later, other members — including some Iraqi Da'wa members — carried out bomb attacks at Kuwait Airport and against the French and American embassies on Dec. 12, 1983.

Many people were sad when Iran rejected the Sana'a appeal of all Muslim countries to stop the war and start negotiations. Would a stalemate, with Iraq and Iran exhausted indefinitely, provide the suitable formula to save the people? Such a formula is too far-fetched since Iran is keen on its maximalist objectives of ideological warfare. Tehran has been impervious to Muslim states' influence as well as to any super-power influence. No control whatsoever can be exerted over its policy by Moscow, Washington, the Organisation of Islamic Conference or the

Non-Aligned Movement. Mediation efforts to end the war have achieved nothing. The Ayatollahs carry on their equanimous view of the "Jihad" war while exhorting the Sunni for their eclectic interpretation of the Koran.

Just as people tirelessly stop a young man from committing suicide, it is possible to stop "Al Sheikh" at his old age, from instrumenting a mass suicide of his people and the Arabs as well? This is the big worry of my Bahraini friend.

The writer is a former Jordanian ambassador to Bahrain.

## McCloskey calls on PLO to maintain moderation despite loss

AMMAN — A former U.S. congressman, Mr. Paul McCloskey, has called on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to continue its moderate course, despite the assassination of one of its Executive Committee members, Fahd Al Qawasmeh, in the hope that supporters of the Palestinian cause in the U.S. can persuade the Reagan administration to recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

In an article written to mourn the death of Mr. Qawasmeh, who was shot dead in Amman last Saturday, Mr. McCloskey also said that once the PLO is able to participate in negotiations for peace in the Middle East, and once the American people demand fairness for Palestinians as well as security for Israel, the Jewish state will have to accept United Nations resolutions on the Middle East conflict.

Mr. McCloskey, who was here on a short private visit, also said that there are "signs also of hope" for peace in the Middle East, in that the PLO and Jordan "have begun to work together" and Egypt is "moving more closely to support Palestinian aspirations".

The former congressman said that a combination of lack of proper knowledge of Americans of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the "incredible political efforts and power of the Jewish lobby" in Washington has sustained congressional votes of more aid to Israel and restrictions on aid to Jordan during this past year.

He expressed hope that "a Palestinian state and Palestinian self-determination will be achieved when the United States citizens finally demand of their government that we no longer support racial discrimination, whether it be in South Africa or Palestine".

Following is the full text of Mr. McCloskey's article:

I first met Fahd Kawasmeh when he and his fellow Mayor, Mohammed Milhem, first toured the United States following their expulsion from the occupied West Bank.

Both men were tremendously valuable to the Palestinian cause, because both could quietly and humbly relate to the American people the terrible and humiliating facts of everyday life under

Israeli occupation.

The truth is more powerful than the sword. The true facts of life in the occupied territories, if known to enough Americans, can one day achieve self-determination for the Palestinians even more surely than can armed conflict.

That Israeli settlers can dig wells while Palestinians cannot, that deeper Israeli wells can cause Palestinian crops to die out, that Palestinian farmers must apply for permits and pay taxes to farm their own lands while Israeli settlers receive subsidies to do so; that Palestinians cannot build homes while Israelis receive money to build illegal settlements on the occupied West Bank and in Gaza — these facts, if known to all Americans, can switch American public opinion more strongly than any victory on the battlefield.

Even childbirth, for a Palestinian woman, if fraught with intimidation and fear. That the Israeli authorities have denied Palestinians the right to build hospitals and schools cannot be reconciled with American concepts of justice and fairness.

Americans, as a people, are fair. When they finally understand injustice, they will demand of their elected leaders that it be stopped. The Israelis and their Jewish supporters in the United States have gone to tremendous lengths to prevent the American people from learning the truth about Israeli conduct and Palestinian suffering on the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

It is only the lack of knowledge of Americans, coupled with the incredible political efforts and power of the Jewish lobby in America which has thus far sustained congressional votes of more aid to Israel and restrictions on aid to Jordan during this past year.

But even the strongest lobby cannot long retain its power in the face of truth. No Jewish orator, no matter how eloquent, can argue today in the United States that Jews are a chosen people with the right to treat Palestinians as animals. There cannot be a chosen people without the tacit acceptance that all others are lesser people with lesser rights. If any American woman were denied the right to have her child in a clean hospital, if any American woman

Arab News



were subjected to a strip search upon crossing a border into her own country, the hue and cry would be raised so forcefully that Congress would vote, in hours, to cut all funds to the offending governmental authority.

The truth, conveyed by ordinary human beings to others, is still the greatest power in the world today.

This is precisely why Mayor Kawasmeh and Mayor Milhem were so dangerous to the Israelis. More than any Arab leader, they could quietly and effectively change the minds of the American people — to cut off aid to Israel until equal rights are granted to the Palestinians.

Even King Hussein, recognised to be the wisest leader in the Arab World today, could not communicate with the American people as effectively as these simple men with their simple stories of own personal experiences and those of their families and children.

As an American I feel deep regret that so few of my colleagues in Congress and the U.S. Administration have been willing to come to Jordan and the occupied West Bank to understand the depth of human suffering and indignity imposed by the Israeli occupation forces and regulations. I regret even more that the U.S. government has thus far been unwilling to even meet across the

table with the Palestinian leaders, men like PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, head of the PLO political Department Farouk Kaddoumi and Mayor Milhem, men who have been elected by a democratic process and whom I have found to be as courageous, compassionate and competent as the elected leaders of much older and larger countries.

I have considerable faith, however, that the truth will finally prevail. A Palestinian state and Palestinian self-determination will be achieved when the United States citizens finally demand of their government that we no longer support racial discrimination, whether it be in South Africa or Palestine.

Those in the Arab World who feel understandable frustration at the slowness of America to change its policies should remember that it took over three and a-half centuries for the U.S. Congress to finally end legal discrimination against black people in America. This is finally happening, and with Bishop Desmond Tutu's recent visit to America, the Bishop was able to personally convince President Reagan that tacit acceptance of apartheid in South Africa was wrong and should be stopped.

I have the feeling that if President Reagan had been willing to meet with Mayor Kawasmeh and Mayor Milhem in the White House, he might have become

equally convinced to cease American support for what is an almost-identical form of racial discrimination on the occupied West Bank today.

Thus the death of Mayor Kawasmeh places an even greater burden today on Chairman Arafat and the PLO leaders. To remain moderate in the face of assassination requires courage that most of us do not have. When angry voices cry out for revenge and violence, the strongest men in history have been those few who have kept calm and resisted the public cry for violence. The anger and frustration of Palestinians over continued martyrdom of their ablest and bravest is completely understandable.

But there are signs also of hope. King Hussein and Chairman Arafat have begun to work together. Egypt, under President Mubarak, is moving more closely to support Palestinian aspirations. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait continue their steady financial support.

If the PLO can continue its moderate course, perhaps those of us in the United States who support a Palestinian state, including an increasing number of U.S. Jewish leaders, can finally persuade President Reagan and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to recognise that Palestinians, too, should have the same right of self-determination that the United Nations (UN) Charter grants

to all peoples.

Once the PLO is able to participate in negotiations, and once the United States people demand fairness for Palestinians as well as security for Israelis, Israel will have to give way to United Nations resolutions affecting Palestine as Chairman Arafat agreed to do in July, 1982, thus paving the way for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem as required by U.N. Resolution 242.

If this goal is reached, it will be in large measure due to the quiet strength and courage of Mayor Kawasmeh and those marvelous humble citizens of the occupied territories who daily work and survive under the Israeli military government. That Hebron's population has nearly doubled in size since 1967, in spite of every effort the Israelis have made to make life intolerable, means that Mayor Kawasmeh's leadership and sacrifice have not been in vain.

The world mourns the passing of this quiet and decent man with great sadness and respect.

As Bobby Kennedy once said, in Cape Town, South Africa in 1966:

"Every time a man speaks out against injustice and oppression, a tiny ripple of hope goes out..."

We less Kawasmeh for giving us all a renewed hope for peace and justice for Palestinians and their fellow-citizens of the world.

## Deng's liberalisation drive sweeps China

By Jeremy Clift  
Reuter

PEKING — China's top leader Deng Xiaoping is a small man in a big hurry, pressing on at breakneck speed with a string of radical reforms that tear apart some of the basic rules of Communism.

The diminutive 80-year-old with a gravelly voice from Sichuan is rapidly dismantling the old Soviet-style centrally-planned economy introduced under the late Chairman Mao Tseung.

His peaceful revolution sweeping the country will replace it with a more lively socialism linked to incentives designed to mould China into a major economic power by the 21st century.

The Communist Party still maintains its iron grip on this country of one billion people, but Mr. Deng is setting the state on a new course that will have a profound impact across the globe.

In the latest series of measures announced to usher in the new year, Premier Zhao Ziyang said mandatory state purchases of major agricultural products, one of the pillars of Chairman Mao's collective system introduced 30 years ago, will be scrapped in 1985.

The state will retain its central role in determining agricultural prices, but will allow private grain sales. Market forces will gradually play a stronger part in fixing supply and prices.

"This is what we have hoped but dared not do for many years. Now we are able to do it as conditions are ripe," Mr. Zhao said.

He announced pay rises for state employees, including those involved in science, technology,

culture, education and public health before the introduction of adjustments in the price of some industrial products.

The new year marks the start of a far-reaching programme of industrial change, branded as a threat to Communism by the Soviet press opposed to China's new policies.

Mr. Deng's first wave of reforms, begun shortly after he took over power from Chairman Mao's successors in 1978, concentrated on bringing more prosperity to China's 800 million peasants. He replaced Chairman Mao's rural communes with a system of family plots that allowed individuals to earn more by working harder.

But until now changes in the factory have only been on an experimental basis.

The agricultural revolution has produced four record harvests in a row and Mr. Deng wants the workplace changes to give a similar boost to industry.

His objective is for China to catch up with the economically developed countries in 50 years. Annual per capita income should have reached \$800 by the turn of the century, compared with around \$200 a head today.

The workplace reforms will reduce the role of state central control in all but core industries like steel and coal. Factory managers are being given a greater say in setting production targets and in running their plant.

Job security under Chairman Mao is now out and workers can be sacked, at least in theory.

Factories are starting to pay taxes to the state instead of handing over their profits to the government, giving them greater flexibility to finance development.

From today, the government has slashed the traditional two-hour lunchbreak for state employees to one hour to increase efficiency.

The cornerstone of Mr. Deng's policy is the opening up of China to the outside world. He recognises that China must have foreign technology to modernise efficiently.

But with memories of the old colonial treaty ports along the coast during the first half of the century still fresh in the minds of old revolutionaries who fought with Chairman Mao, Mr. Deng is also busy reassuring old comrades that the new direction does not mean a return of capitalism to China.

"The basic things will still be state-owned, public-owned," he said in a speech published with considerable fanfare at the start of the new year.

"I think some old comrades fear that after they fought all their lives for socialism, for Communism, suddenly capitalism is coming back. They can't bear it, they are afraid," he declared.

But he told the doubters their fears were baseless. "It is harmless, it is harmless," he said of the open policy. Any bad ideological influences coming in could be dealt with, he said.

China was isolated for nearly 200 years and it had only made the country poor, backward and ignorant, he said.

But Mr. Deng is in a hurry. He knows that at 80, his time is running out, though he still appears to be lively and thoroughly in control.

He pushed through China's agreement with Britain on the fut-



Deng Xiaoping

ure of Hong Kong in a remarkable two years and he is bringing in domestic changes in rapid succession.

Mr. Deng's objective is to ensure that China can never return to the years of chaos and ultra-leftist factionalism that marked the 10 years of the "Cultural Revolution" introduced by Chairman Mao, when he himself was persecuted as a "capitalist roadster".

There is no reason why socialism means poverty, he says. Soon all Chinese will have such a vested interest in the new prosperity that it will be impossible for those who still cling to Chairman Mao's ideas to make a comeback.

But pitfalls remain, not least the impact of coming price rises designed to slash state subsidies on everything from food to clothing to transport and housing, which account for a staggering quarter of government spending.

## Let the Israelis commit themselves

From The New York Times

AFTER 100 days of coalition government, bankrupt Israel has concluded that the boldest way out of crisis is to bank on the sympathy and treasury of the United States. Israel's two party government has cut \$400 million, or 1.6 per cent, from the national budget, while preparing to ask for 12 times that amount in new U.S. aid. It is no favour to Israel for America to endorse such a ratio of self-help to welfare.

Having used most of the \$2.6 billion in U.S. aid for the fiscal year that began three months ago, the Israelis now ask for \$800 million more in early 1985, plus \$4.05 billion in the early months of the next fiscal year. All the aid sought and sent is in grants, not loans: half for military equipment and half to be spent at will.

The Labour-Likud coalition began by saying it would not seek massive American aid before demonstrating domestic discipline and sacrifice. Now it says its main austerity measures await more help and pressure from the United States. The Israelis were right the first time. Even if America were not running \$200-billion deficits, \$5 billion is a lot of money. Even from a stout ally, request to double aid year after year will not be kindly received in a Congress struggling to make severe budget cuts.

Israel bears a great military burden. Yet this crisis was self-induced, and rather cynically at that. Although already carrying one of the world's largest per-

capita foreign debts, then Prime Minister Menachem Begin chose in 1981 to grease his way to reelection by printing more money to finance a consumer spree. The resulting inflation was accommodated by printing still more money for indexing. Israelis kept raising wages and prices, propelling themselves into a speculative frenzy. The inflation rate has soared to about 800 per cent, making the shekel useless. True prices are figured in dollars, whose cost grows daily.

The people are said to be ready for great sacrifice. Their leaders, although insulated from political assault, have been slow to act. They now talk of cutting \$1.4 billion more from the \$24-billion budget and ending food and fuel subsidies. But labour, welfare and ministerial lobbies resist.

The government is afraid of the high unemployment that it thinks recovery temporarily requires. Unemployment offends both socialists and Zionist doctrine and could drive many Israelis to emigrate. Israel needs money and deserves support. But first it needs to commit itself, convincingly, to austerity measures that would put America's emergency aid to constructive use. If the U.S. Congress is to consider the sums now sought, it needs to be shown a timetable for matching aid to the pace of progress. If Israel's leaders need American pressure at their heels, let Americans provide it by holding back, as the State Department has proposed, until Israel shows how much it is willing to help itself.

فكرنا العربي



سكروا



**Talking straight**  
**Marwan Muasher**

# Ordinary people's lives have little to do with it

**THE KILLING** of Fahd Qawasmeh a week ago, and Azmi Al Mufti a few weeks back, represent a dangerous precedent in the Jordanian-Palestinian political history, and a phenomenon that is worthy of a serious reconsideration of our ideals as an Arab Nation.

Political assassinations are not new in the Arab World, nor are they alien to Jordanians. Throughout our short history as a modern state, we have seen many of our politicians fall prey to assassins who did not agree with their policies. The list includes such notables, among others, as King Abdullah, Hazza' Al-Majali, and Wasfi Al-Tal. Interestingly enough, the reason for their murders has always been somehow associated with Jordanian-Palestinian relations. It is for this same reason that Qawasmeh and Mufti lost their lives. However, there are important differences that separate the earlier political assassinations in Jordan from the ones we are witnessing today.

Differences that point to a dangerous pattern newly developing in the area that has to be dealt with effectively.

Political murders in the Arab World, Jordan included, used to be directed against the person and the ideas he/she represented. Individual personalities in the Arab World have always been over-influential in setting out policies and defining trends. Assassinations thus were aimed at putting an end to the policies and ideas carried out by the intended victims, as those victims were one of the main driving forces behind such policies. The murders of King Abdullah, Hazza' Al-Majali, Wasfi Al-Tal, Anwar Al-Sadat, Issam Sartawi, Salim Al-Lawzi, Riyad Taha, and many many others all fell under this category. The murders of Fahd Qawasmeh and Azmi Mufti were different in that they were neither carried out against the

person nor his ideas. Rather, they were executed against the state or organisation the two victims happened to be a part of, regardless of whatever role they played in setting out the policies of their state or organisation. Mr. Qawasmeh would probably not have been a dead man today if he had not recently been elected to the new PLO Executive Committee. In other words, he was murdered because he was a member of the committee, not because he was Fahd Qawasmeh. The same holds true for Azmi Mufti. Even though no crime is really senseless, that makes these two crimes particularly senseless. For other than the fact that they did not succeed in stemming the ideas or policies adopted by the victims' organisations (of which they are only members), it is difficult to see what purpose the murders served other than to reaffirm an old fact that any person can kill any other if he/she is determined to do so. The

true losers in the whole ordeal remain the families of the two victims, who have to live the rest of their lives wondering why their beloved had to go away so senselessly.

The other important difference is that political assassinations were usually carried out in the past by estranged persons or extremist organisations. In the present two cases, however, as well as in some other similar ones, there is enough evidence to suggest the possible implication of certain state or states. In other words, assassinations can no longer be attributed to the work of some madman, but rather to a sovereign state, with all the organisational and financial help a state has to offer. That is a dangerous precedent in the Arab World. It exemplifies the abuse of power at a grand scale as well as the political frustration and short-sightedness of states which have to resort to such desperate actions in a futile

attempt to enforce their visions. It also makes attempts at fighting back such terrorism harder still.

Whether these assassinations are due to individuals or states, however, the fact remains that they are here to stay for an indefinite amount of time. In the absence of a grass-root concept of democracy in the Arab World, people and states alike will feel no moral deterrent from killing in order to prove a point. In a way, these murders are but a by-product of our own inadequacy as a nation to develop a system that not only tolerates but encourages different points of view.

What continues to worry me is the reaction we usually have to such events. One senses an apathetic, muted, and, I dare say, somewhat artificial reaction to an event that should figure highly on our thought agenda.

Our media, as it has done countless times before, again

fails to rise to the occasion. TV reports the two events as any other news items, with a truly conspicuous lack of adequate coverage of the circumstances in which the killings occurred, reactions to the killings, and efforts to capture the assassins. Our newspapers do even worse. As usual, they provide the readers with no more than empty words of praise for the dead, hastily written and sometimes with doubtful sincerity.

Our politicians are quick to note how great the victims were, again offering clichés that do not mean much. Why is it that we can only rise with words anytime this nation is faced with a calamity?

It is difficult to say how one can combat such acts of terrorism effectively. Several voices have been raised asking the Jordanian government to take regulatory action against suspected organisations or states standing behind these murders. To Jordan's credit, this has

never been one of its policies. It is indeed dangerous for states to resort to terrorist actions to resolve political disputes among them. It is wise not to adopt such policies, even if other states in the region do.

We probably will never be able to stop such actions completely. What we can do is to have a harder look at our ideals, thought processes, and educational system, so that at least the reaction to such murders is not a mere outburst of emotion followed almost immediately by total indifference. We need to fully appreciate the danger behind the concept of taking someone's life for a difference of opinion, a concept we have come not only to accept but to expect as well.

And then, there will always be terrorists who will take more lives into their own hands. And we will also be there, to read about them in our newspapers, and then go back to doing business as usual.

## Ferries on Hudson again? Some good ideas never die

**By Boris Weintraub**

WASHINGTON — In 1967, ferries linking New Jersey and Manhattan made their last runs across the Hudson River, the victims of progress in the form of bridges and tunnels.

In 1984, planners studying how to alleviate congestion on those bridges and in those tunnels have been urged by New Jersey's governor and New York City's mayor to consider an old solution: ferries.

The planners made no recommendations before the end of the year, but they are looking seriously at a resumption of ferry service. The mere consideration of the notion shows that some ideas refuse to die.

history is theirs.

For all intents and purposes, a ferry is simply an extension of a highway. But it links highways in a limitless number of ways, and many ferries have taken on a legend and a lore all their own.

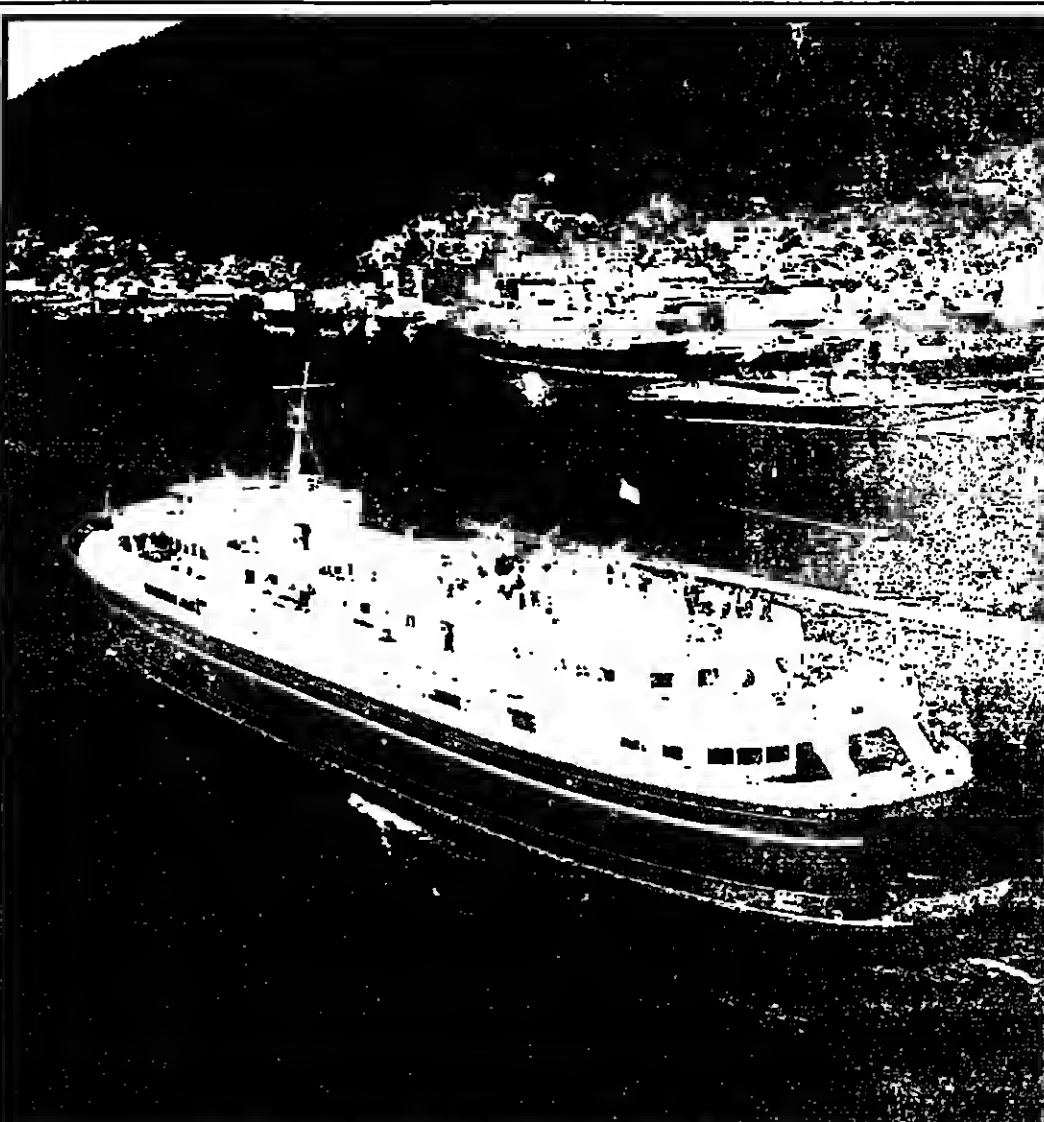
Probably the most famous American ferry links Manhattan and Staten Islands. One early ferry on that run was started in 1811 by Cornelius Vanderbilt, who borrowed \$100 from his mother to launch the service. He soon paid it back and used his profits as the foundation of his fortune.

Today's Staten Island ferries can carry as many as 6,000 passengers at a time. The celebrated nickel fare has risen to a quarter, though that pays for a round trip.

Champlain to the grave in which it was to lie a-moldering. Mr. Brown had been slain while attempting to free slaves at (Robert) Harper's Ferry, established in 1747 at the junction of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, in what is now West Virginia.

Fur trader John Harris' ferry across the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania was the site of a village that became Harrisburg.

Early ferries were canoes or rafts. Later ferries were sailboats or "teamboats," propelled by a team of horses walking on a treadmill. Others, including some still operating, ran along ropes or cables attached to trees on each bank.



A ferry of the Alaska Marine Highway System steams past Ketchikan along the Inside Passage, a waterway that threads Canada's western coast and the island-dotted panhandle of Alaska. Half of the communities in Alaska's southeast are unreachable by conventional roads. Ferries play a vital role in linking them together and facilitating travel down the Pacific coast as far as Seattle. Alaska established its extensive ferry system in 1961.

**Passage to Hades**

Ferryboats have played a role in civilisation for millennia. Greek mythology tells of the first ferryboat captain, Charon, who ferried entrants to Hades across the rivers Styx and Acheron for a fee of one obolus.

When the first explorers came to America, many, like Hernando de Soto, were ferried across rivers by Indians. Though the building of bridges and tunnels has obliterated hundreds of American ferries, many have survived. Others have revived. There is something about ferries that maintains a hold on the popular imagination.

Walt Whitman wrote that ferries "afford inimitable, streaming, never-ending poems." And Edna St. Vincent Millay wrote of the days when "We were very tired, we were very merry, we had gone back and forth all night on the ferry."

All this is heady stuff for the unpretentious ferryboats of this world. Unlike cruise ships, ferries rarely have anything luxurious or even comfortable about them. They are designed for a workaday job: to carry people and their possessions from one side of a river, lake, or sea to the other. "The ferry," wrote historian John Perry, "is the people's boat and its

**Rowboat to Brooklyn**

Vanderbilt's ferries came long after the first ferries to dock in Manhattan. As far back as 1623, Cornelius Dirksen towed people back and forth between Manhattan and Brooklyn.

But even that came after the Massachusetts Bay Court helped set up a penny ferry service between Boston and Charlestown in 1630. A second ferry, between Boston and Cambridge, was established in 1635.

Ferry service between Rocky Hill and South Glastonbury, Conn., was established in 1655. That ferry continues to operate under the Connecticut Department of Transportation, making it the nation's oldest continuous ferry operation.

Maryland's ferries have seen their share of notable women. The Tred Avon ferry was home to Judith Bennett, who married three different ferry operators and ran the ferry herself for 10 years between houses.

Patty Cannon, who kidnapped blacks and sold them into slavery in the 18th century, is said to have persuaded ferryman to take her across Maryland's Wicomico River by bribing them with a kiss.

In 1859, the body of John Brown was ferried across Lake

**Marine highway**

Today, ferries play an integral role in government transportation systems. Ferries carry 40,000 commuters daily between Seattle and nearby islands. The coast of Alaska is linked by the ferries of the state's marine highway system. Ferryboats operated along the coast of North Carolina are affectionately known as the "Tar Heel Navy."

An extensive ferry system operates in Canada. There are ferries connecting Prince Edward Island and the mainland, ferries between Maine and Nova Scotia, and 30 ferries in British Columbia alone.

The most unusual is over the Fraser River between Boston Bar and North Bend, B.C.: an aerial cage suspended on cables crosses between towers on both banks. It can hold 40 passengers, or an automobile and its passengers.

"You'd better see it quick," says Frank Clapp, a British Columbia land survey officer. "Logging has increased traffic, and a bridge will replace it in 1986."

Abroad, the best-known ferries are those that cross the English Channel between Great Britain and the Continent. Almost as well known is the Star Ferry, which has plied Hong Kong waters since the 1880s.

But the range and number of ferries is endless. There are ferries

between the Soviet Union and Bulgaria on the Black Sea, scores of ferries on the North Sea and the Mediterranean, and a ferry between Sicily and Italy on the Strait of Messina, where Ulysses sailed between Scylla and Charybdis.

**Death notices premature**

Someone is always proclaiming the imminent death of ferries, and indeed, ferries as famous and obstinate as Arkansas's Toad Suck Ferry are gone. But others, like the boats that cross Lake Michigan between Wisconsin and

Michigan, often are saved at the last minute, and others are revived — something that happened in San Francisco Bay and may happen again on the Hudson River.

A firm called Arcorp wants to initiate ferry service on the Hudson between two pieces of property it owns, one in midtown Manhattan and the other in Weehawken, N.J., a route used by a New York Central ferry until 1959.

Edward Imperatore, the firm's general manager, says commuters would prefer to take a bus to the

New Jersey terminal and cross the river by boat rather than get stuck in bridge or tunnel traffic. And planners may end up agreeing with him, though not necessarily with his route.

"The ferry issue is a live and part of the study," says Lora Mayer of the New York-New Jersey task force studying Hudson River congestion. "We don't want anything esoteric, just something to ease loads at peak periods."

Sounds almost like the definition of a ferry — National Geographic feature.

## More land goes

**By Daoud Kuttab**

WHILE THE occupied territories are mostly being ignored by the world at large, the Israeli practice of land grabbing continues. The fact is that more and more land is being confiscated. In just one, over 1,381 dunums were taken over in the Ramallah area, north of the Hebron district, and 300 in the Bethlehem district. The interesting fact about this land is that almost all of it is cultivated with fruit-bearing trees. The Israelis declare the land to be state property and then allow the landowners a token chance to defend their rights to it before an Israeli army military objections committee.

Landowners are usually informed through their village mukhtar and then have to run to the nearest lawyer to file a suit within 30 days, showing that the land is their property. The problem for most Palestinian farmers is that their lands are not properly registered because much of the West Bank was never properly surveyed. Most landowners have documents showing that they have paid taxes on the property, but their cases look very weak in front of the Israeli military committee. In fact this committee can only make a recommendation to the military governor, who has the power to accept or overrule it.

In the Bethlehem district village of Rashtich one land owner was informed on Dec. 6, 1983 that his 300 dunums of farm land had been declared state property and that he must leave immediately. However the actual document declaring it such was not properly filed out. When the farmer refused to leave his land because of the lack of specification of the particular land plot the Israelis arrested him.

Although the situation inside "Israel proper" is rather more relaxed than in the occupied territories, the authorities are always on guard against the development and advocacy of Palestinian nationalism there. The law is enforced to extremes in order to deter the large Arab population from demonstrating their Palestinian identity. Yet flag-raising and gra-

ffiti writing is pursued with more vigour in Galilee than in the West Bank. The authorities are just as tough with Palestinian intellectuals who declare their Palestinian identity and proudly speak of it abroad. Although it is not well known, many Palestinians living inside Israel are placed under town arrest. Some nationalists are even barred from entering the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

Muhammad Mufti was under such restrictions up to the time he was elected to the Knesset. A number of Palestinians have been arrested or unjustifiably harassed immediately after returning from trips abroad. Ghassan Igharich from the Triangle Village of Umm Al-Fahm was arrested and interrogated for many days after returning from the Geneva conference on the question of Palestine in August 1983. Mufti was similarly harassed after returning from a European tour in which he showed a documentary film about Umm Al-Fahm, "On Our Land."

Gulilee priest Fa'wi Khoury was similarly arrested and had his passport confiscated for many months after visiting the Paris seminary where he is studying. A few weeks ago a lawyer from Umm Al-Fahm, Hussein Abu Hussein, aged 32, was arrested on political charges based on "secret testimony." Mr. Hussein has recently returned from participating in the Paris conference on Lebanese and Palestinian missing and detained persons. Together with West Bank lawyer Johnathan Kuttab, he succeeded in convincing the organisation to add the occupied territories to the scope of their work.

He is now being accused of leading a group allegedly responsible for armed attacks on houses belonging to Arabs who are close to the Israeli authorities. Mr. Hussein was remanded for 14 days and was refused bail.

A group of Jewish and Arab lawyers have formed a committee to defend Mr. Hussein.

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## Budd pledges athletics future to Britain

LONDON (R) — Zola Budd Thursday pledged her athletics future to Britain and will make her 1985 debut in the National Indoor Championships later this month.

The 18-year-old South African-born runner wants to race internationally for Britain, tackle the European circuit and run road races in the United States.

And she wants the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) to administer her track career.

Budd made her intentions known in an 11-point signed statement presented to a press lunch here Thursday. Budd did not attend the luncheon but the statement was read out by Jannie Momborg, Vice-President of the South African Amateur Athletics Union.

The statement will end speculation over Budd's career following her decision to return to

South Africa after representing Britain in the Los Angeles Olympics.

Momborg said: "We have done our job by delivering her back. We shall stay in touch as friends but it's over to Britain now."

"Zola was 48 hours from disaster — that close to running again in South Africa which would have finished her. She is now at peace."

Momborg added: "She had a terrible time in her old career. She will return from time to time to South Africa but over here she will be as open and available as anyone."

Budd, who flies back there Friday and returns to prepare for the

championships on January 25-26, her first indoor meeting, said in the statement: "I want to be treated and accepted as any other British athlete."

She will run the 1,500 metres at the championships and try to win a place in Britain's team to meet West Germany on February 9.

Budd, who has also been invited to run a 10-km road race in Phoenix, Arizona, on March 2, will also run in the English Women's Cross Country Championships on February 16.

Her financial affairs are to be handled through her British-based trust fund and administered by the London office of a leading firm of accountants.

Budd won an eight-km road race in Zurich on Sunday, her first competitive race since finishing seventh in the Olympic 3,000-metre final.

## Noah upsets Lendl

LAS VEGAS (R) — Yannick Noah of France finished powerfully to upset second-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia 7-6, 6-7, 6-1 in the Challenge of Champions tennis tournament here.

John McEnroe, top seed in the \$1.3 million event, struggled before beating fellow-American Jimmy Arias 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 while Jimmy Connors, seeded third in the eight-man field, defeated another American Johan Kriek 6-1, 6-3.

Lendl and Noah each had a service break in the first set and then held service in the tiebreak until Noah broke Lendl on the 10th point for a 6-4 lead which he held for a 7-5 tiebreak win.

The second set went the same way, only this time Lendl came out on top in the tiebreak 7-5, after taking a 6-3 lead.

Noah switched into a higher gear in the third set and swept the Czechoslovak aside with a combination of speed around the court and superb forehands, taking the last five games of the match.

McEnroe and Connors meet for a place in the final of the tournament, which is being played in two four-man groups. The winners of each group meet in the final.

Noah's victory revived his chances of going through to the final. To do so he must beat American Vitas Gerulaitis and Lendl must defeat Guillermo Vilas of Argentina.

McEnroe struggled until midway through the second set, when the current Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion apparently hit a ball at Arias' head. The ball missed its target, hitting Arias on the shoulder, but from that point on McEnroe was in control.

After the match, McEnroe denied he was aiming at Arias saying: "I was just hitting the ball at what I was aiming at. I was playing the ball."

Connors return of serve was the key in his victory. He handled Kriek's serve easily, while Kriek had trouble with both Connors' first and second serves.

## Top seed Wilander ousted from Masters tennis tournament

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) — Top-seeded Mats Wilander, ranked fourth in the world and spearhead of Sweden's Davis Cup-winning team, was beaten in his first match in the Young Masters Tennis Tournament here Thursday.

Wilander, 20, went down 7-6, 6-3 to American Sammy Giammalva, 21, in the second round after having a bye in the first, cutting short his final match practice for next week's Masters Grand Prix final event in New York.

The Swede, whose straight-set victory over Jimmy Connors helped Sweden to their Davis Cup triumph over the United States in Gothenburg last month, had no answer to the skill and daring of Giammalva.

The Texan beat four seeded players to reach the final of the New South Wales Open three weeks ago and credited a recent course of dancing lessons for his success there.

He certainly hot-footed his way out of trouble in the opening set. Leading 5-3, he dropped three games in a row but then saved a set

point before drawing level at 6-6 to force a tie-break. He won it seven points to two and carried on his good work in the second set to cause the shock of the week.

Giammalva has never lost to Wilander.

Wilander said: "I did not play particularly well today. My backhand did not work and I had no feel. But Sammy played well. I did not expect him to come in as well and as often as he did."

"Now I will have to practice much more and much harder for next week."

Giammalva has reached the quarter-finals, ensuring himself a pay check of at least \$3,333 (\$3,833). Wilander, ironically, won much more.

He took \$2,500 (\$2,875) in prize money plus a bonus of \$41,667 (\$47,920) for being the highest ranked player in the event.

Fifth-seeded American Aaron Krickstein also lost Thursday, 6-3, 6-1 to 11th-seeded Boris Becker of West Germany in a battle of two precocious 17-year-olds.

## London braces itself for Cinderella festival

LONDON (R) — Body building, fin swimming and faustball are among the events which will be seen here next summer in a bizarre festival of minority sports billed as the World Games.

"I don't mind the term 'Cinderella sports' — that story had a happy ending", said Jimmy McMullen, one of the organisers of the event.

None of the 24 sports has achieved Olympic recognition, but the promoters have spared no effort to convince the world's press of the seriousness of the venture.

Reporters sipped champagne as they watched demonstrations of some of the more obscure events in the unlikely venue of London's Barbican Arts complex.

"This will be no village sports day", said Patrick Nally, managing director of the company marketing the event, which was responsible for promoting the past two soccer World Cups and the inaugural World Athletics Championships.

The organisers predict a worldwide television audience of 900 million for this multi-sports 'spectacular', despite the lack of a sponsor and financial shortages.

"We don't expect it to go from infancy to a mega spectacle in one go. But we are heading in the right direction," Nally said.

Some of the competitors attending the demonstration were a little coy about the prospects for the games.

"They can't do us any harm," said Andy Kerr, a champion powerlifter whose weightlifting career was cut short by injury. "We need all the publicity we can get."

When it came to korball and fly-casting he was a little hesitant. Even some of the swarms of public relations officers were not too sure of the rules.

"Korball is the second most popular sport in the Netherlands", a sprightly executive reassured mystified journalists who were treated to a demonstration match. "It enjoys the added advantage of having mixed-sex teams."

Inside, attention turned to the awesome sight of four body builders flexing their rippling muscles to rousing music and commentary by Carolyn Cheshire, the self-proclaimed pioneer of women's body building in Britain.

"Body building is the perfect combination of sport and art", she explained. She denied the sport lacked action, asserting its great spectator potential. However, the crowd would need some educating on the finer points of the discipline, she added.

The chief organiser of the World Games, Tony Rudge, believes many of the sports will play

to sell-out crowds. "We will have no problems with speedway, karate, roller hockey and, of course, body building."

Rudge conceded that many of the eight venues were chosen for their small size. The organisers dropped the idea of using Wembley Arena, which houses some of London's most important sports events, opting for less prestigious sites.

A scout camp will play host to field archery, while tug-of-war and petanque (a variation on the French game of boules) will take place at a stadium normally used for club athletics — tickets for all events are to be sold cheaply.

Rudge is confident the games will capture the public's imagination. Even so, he is not taking any risks. The events are to be packaged specially for television, with highlights produced on each of the 10 days, but none of the sports will go out live.

A deal has already been signed with Britain's fourth television channel.

If they manage to woo the viewing public to swimming with flippers and lifesaving instead of the more established sports, the promoters will achieve a remarkable triumph.

Three countries, West Germany, Japan and Sweden, are challenging for the honour of staging the 1989 games

## Holmes says he is retiring but might return for \$30m

NEW YORK (R) — International Boxing Federation (IBF) heavyweight champion Larry Holmes said Friday he would retire following his next title defence against undefeated David Bey, but might return to fight Gerry Cooney — for \$30 million.

"I know a lot of people won't believe me, but I'm retiring after the Bey fight on March 15 in Las Vegas," he told Reuters by phone from his offices in Easton, Pennsylvania. "It's my last fight."

"I'm tired of fighting, and I'm even more tired of all the garbage

that goes on in boxing," said the 36-year-old Holmes, who is undefeated in 46 professional fights. "I helped boxing a lot, but I'm fed up with all the hassles with promoters and the law suits."

But, even in announcing his retirement, Holmes left the door open to a return to the ring.

"It would take a miracle for me to change my mind," he said. "Maybe they could get me back if they gave me 25 million — no, make that 30 million — to fight Gerry Cooney."

"I don't think Cooney's that good, but he could win a title because there's not much out there (in the heavyweight division)," said Holmes who, while still the World Boxing Council champion, stopped Cooney in the 13th round on June 11, 1982. "He might win it if he fights a Pinklon Thomas, Tim Witherspoon or Michael Dokes, but not if he fights Greg Page."

Page recently knocked out Gerrie Coetzee of South Africa to

win the World Boxing Association heavyweight title.

Holmes said he was on the verge of retiring more than a year ago. But during the last year Holmes has said he would continue fighting until he had surpassed Rocky Marciano's record of retiring undefeated after winning 49 pro fights.

A victory over Bey, unbeaten in 14 bouts, would give Holmes a 47-0 record, leaving him two short of Marciano's mark.

"I said I wanted to break Marciano's record, and at the time I said it, I did," Holmes added. "But now it doesn't matter to me anymore. I have \$99 million in the bank. Why should I keep fighting?"

Holmes said that, after retiring, he would remain active in boxing. "I'm involved with a group where I'll be a co-promoter of television fights," he said. "And I'll also be doing boxing clinics and serving as an adviser on boxing."

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Interested bidders are invited to collect tenders' documents from the procurement division at the Directorate of Projects, Ministry of Education starting Jan. 5, 1985 against the payment of the above fees.

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The Netherlands Consulate General in Amman, P.O. Box 312, invites all those temporarily or permanently in Jordan with Netherlands nationality to register with the Consulate General in order to keep the administration up-to-date.

The Netherlands Ambassador plans to invite all those who will have registered for a Netherlands reception in his hotel when he will be in Amman by the end of March 1985.

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# Reagan affirms 'Star Wars' essential for peace, stability

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — With important new arms control talks just days away, the Reagan administration says it must proceed with "Star Wars" anti-missile research so that Americans won't someday be forced to choose between "surrender and suicide."

Administration officials defended the "Star Wars" initiative Thursday as Secretary of State George Shultz made final preparations for talks next week with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in Geneva.

One senior U.S. official, briefing reporters on the space-based anti-missile programme is "a long-range chip" in any arms talks with the Soviets.

The statement came as the administration, offering a new defence of the controversial programme, contended that the Soviet Union is also engaged in research and development of an anti-missile system that could give Moscow an ominous advantage.

Mr. Shultz was to receive final instructions from President Ronald Reagan, and leave for Geneva Saturday evening. The purpose of the talks next Monday and Tuesday is to establish a framework for comprehensive arms control negotiations.

The Soviet Union has signalled that one of its key objectives will be to pressure the Reagan administration to curb the Star Wars research, which is aimed at developing the capability to destroy Soviet missiles before they strike.

The administration said the

Soviets are at work on radar systems that are "of particular concern."

Officials said the radar systems, especially one under construction at Krasnoyarsk in Central Siberia, might be in violation of the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty and will be discussed with the Soviets in Geneva.

An administration report on the U.S. and Soviet defence programmes said Moscow may be far enough along in its research to have the capability of deploying a nationwide anti-missile defence system in the next 10 years.

"Were they to do so, as they could, deterrence would collapse, and we would have no choices between surrender and suicide," said the report, which was distributed to reporters at the White House.

It described the administration's own \$26 billion, five-year research programme, known officially as the Strategic Defence Initiative, as "a prudent response" to the Soviet effort.

The U.S. programme "provides insurance against Soviet efforts to develop and deploy unilaterally an advanced defensive system," the report said.

Mr. Reagan said in an in-

roduction to the report that his programme "complements our arms reduction efforts and helps to pave the way for creating a more stable and secure world."

"Our only purpose is to search for ways to reduce the danger of nuclear war," he said.

Critics in this country and abroad contend the Star Wars programme would undermine the ABM treaty and would extend the arms race into outer space at great cost.

Some leading U.S. critics also are sceptical that a workable missile defence system is achievable, and say the \$26 billion spent on research would be wasted.

Meanwhile Soviet commentators are welcoming next week's Geneva talks as a chance to move towards "radical solutions" in the arms race but Moscow has said it wants Washington to get things moving with a concrete initiative.

The Soviet media have described the meeting on Monday and Tuesday between Mr. Shultz and Mr. Gromyko as an event for which the world has high hopes that the Soviet Union wants to fulfil.

The official Communist Party newspaper Pravda said in an editorial Friday Moscow was approaching the talks "aware of its responsibility to humanity."

"Good will, desire to cooperate on an honest, equal footing are not lacking in us. That is up to Washington," Pravda said.

President Konstantin Chernenko's stated readiness for "the

most radical of solutions" has become the catchphrase of Soviet commentary, but there has been no clear hint of those solutions or how they might be reached.

The line Mr. Gromyko will take was decided Thursday at a regular meeting of the ruling Soviet politburo. No details were released but Western analysts said that Moscow was throwing a lot of political weight into the Geneva meeting.

"Whatever happens at Geneva has now acquired major importance and the Russians are out to show that if nothing happens, it will not be their fault," a European diplomat said.

The prime issue for Moscow is U.S. research on the Star Wars system which Washington has said would not be a bargaining counter in negotiations.

The return to talks, widely seen in the West as a Soviet about-face, has been presented in the Soviet Union as a logical continuation of Moscow's striving for equitable agreement.

It has been emphasised that the Shultz-Gromyko meeting is the result of a Soviet initiative, and the corollary must be a practical step by Washington, ideally an announcement of a pause in the space weapons programme.

Soviet media commentary have highlighted comments by U.S. Defence Department aide Richard Perle, that little may come of the talks, as indicative of Washington preparing to be obstructive from the start.



STARTING BUSINESS: Thousands of Tokyo Stock Exchange Market workers, spiked up with kimono-clad women workers engage in the traditional clappings to begin the first day of business in the new year Friday. Most of all Japanese companies and government offices reopened after the New Year holiday (AP wirephoto).

## Reagan aide resigns

WASHINGTON (R) — The departure of White House Deputy Chief of Staff Michael Deaver, the second of President Reagan's closest aides to resign this week, is likely to force a shake-up in the president's inner circle.

Mr. Deaver's resignation was announced Thursday by Mr. Reagan, who now faces a second term without the group of trusted Conservative advisers who accompanied him from California four years ago.

On Wednesday the White House said Interior Secretary William Clark would leave Washington this spring.

There was no immediate word on who would replace Mr. Deaver or Mr. Clark, but their resignations, along with the probable departure of White House counsel Edwin Meese to become U.S. attorney general, raised speculation of a major reshuffle in the president's inner circle.

The departures could strengthen the position of White House Chief of Staff James Baker, a moderate who has talked about leaving.

Mr. Baker and other White House moderates have been criticised by Conservatives for policy compromises struck with Congress.

The Washington Post said Mr. Baker was now in a dominant position to influence the crucial early months of Mr. Reagan's second term.

Administration Conservatives have been pressing for an important position for the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Jeanne Kirkpatrick who has said she would leave but would not accept a senior cabinet position — possibly secretary of state or national security adviser.

The resignations could force other changes in the Reagan administration's second term, including the possible abolition of the Department of Energy.

Mr. Reagan is said to be considering replacing Mr. Clark with Energy Secretary Donald Hodel, which could pave the way for the Energy Department to be merged with the Interior Department as part of Mr. Reagan's campaign to cut back on costly federal agencies.

## Gandhi plans to visit U.S., France in June

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi plans to visit the United States and France in June to inaugurate Indian festivals and promote political and economic ties with the two countries, American and French diplomatic sources said Friday.

The June visit is the first reported plan to travel abroad by Mr. Gandhi since he became India's prime minister on Oct. 31 succeeding his slain mother Indira Gandhi.

The sources said Mr. Gandhi, 40, accepted invitations to open the "Festival of India," which his mother had planned to do.

The prime minister is likely to visit Paris in the first week of June and arrive in Washington in mid-June, said the sources, who asked not to be identified.

He is scheduled to meet with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and French President Francois Mitterrand for talks aimed at strengthening political and economic cooperation with the two countries.

While expected to pursue his mother's policies of non-alignment and close ties with the Soviet Union, Mr. Gandhi also is

expected to seek more advanced technology from Western countries to help develop his country.

Mr. Gandhi, who won a landslide election victory last month, is a former airline pilot known to admire Western technology and computerised administrative methods.

Relations between India and the United States have been strained by American arms sales to Pakistan.

Mr. Gandhi has appointed an veteran government official as his special assistant, replacing a man long considered the second most powerful figure in the late Indira Gandhi's administration.

V.S. Venkataraman, 49, assumed the post Thursday, replacing Rajinder Dhawan, who was Mrs. Gandhi's special assistant for more than 22 years.

Mr. Venkataraman's appointment indicated that Mr. Gandhi intended to bring in an efficient but less ambitious man for the powerful post, said well-known political commentator Kuldip Nayar. He described the new aide as a "faceless, nameless civil servant."

## Spain joins NATO arms supply, maintenance group

MADRID (R) — Spain has joined a NATO arms maintenance and supply organisation, deepening its links with the alliance, officials have said.

The entry into the NATO Maintenance and Supply Organisation (NAMSO) on Jan. 1 occurred two weeks after Spain's ruling Socialist Party reversed its opposition to continued Spanish membership of NATO.

NAMSO, part of the alliance's civilian structure, is the first important NATO organisation Spain has joined since the Socialists froze military integration when they took office in 1982. NAMSO acts as an intermediary between member states wanting maintenance of facilities or logistical support.

A Defence Ministry official said membership of NAMSO would mean Spain could buy spare parts and repair weapons cheaper.

"It also seems to signify greater solidarity with NATO," he said.

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez has promised to hold a referendum on NATO membership next year and has said he favours staying in the alliance without joining its military structure.

Earlier Foreign Affairs officials said Thursday Spain plans to open its frontier with Gibraltar on Feb. 5, the day that talks began on the future of the British colony.

The planned opening of the border, closed by Spain in 1969 to press Spanish claims to Gibraltar, follows an agreement between the two countries on Nov. 27.

In the agreement Britain undertook to discuss openly the sovereignty of Gibraltar, which it has held since 1704, and Spain pledged to end the border restrictions that have damaged the colony's economy. Spain's Socialist government partially reopened the border when it took office in December 1982, allowing local inhabitants to cross by foot once a day.

## Reagan boosts food aid to Africa

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has boosted U.S. aid to famine-stricken Africa to \$1 billion this year and a bill introduced in Congress seeks even more.

Mr. Reagan Thursday said another \$411 million in aid would be sent to Africa this year in addition to funds already allocated to help overcome hunger in some 27 African countries.

At the same time, 69 congressmen — Democrats and Republicans — introduced a bill to provide an extra \$1 billion of aid for the famine victims, whose plight has been given wide publicity here in the last few months.

It was not immediately clear how much of the money proposed by the congressmen was in addition to that already promised by

the Reagan administration. Administrations officials were not able to give a precise breakdown of the figures because they had not yet seen the congressional proposal.

Ethiopia and other Saharan African countries are hit by a severe drought which threatens millions of people with starvation.

Mr. Peter McPherson, director of the U.S. agency for International Development (USAID), said the latest money would boost to 1.5 million tonnes the amount of American food aid to the continent in a 1985 financial year starting last October.

That amount was half the food that USAID calculated the hungry of Africa would need to survive this year, he said.

About 14 million Africans were at risk of starvation and around 20 million would need food aid some time during 1985, he said.

In Ethiopia alone, the country worst hit by the prolonged drought, about nine million people are believed to be starving.

Mr. McPherson said that of the newly promised \$411 million, \$176 million would come from existing resources and the remainder, \$235 million, would be requested from Congress.

Patricia Fleming, an aide to representative Ted Weiss who is sponsoring the congressional aid bill, told Reuters that apart from the \$235 million Mr. Reagan will ask Congress to approve, the money proposed in the bill would be in addition to that already pledged

## More East Germans leave Prague embassy

VIENNA (R) — A further group of East Germans squatting in the West German embassy in Prague to try to gain passage to the West went home Friday, West German diplomatic sources said.

They did not specify how many were in the group. The East German authorities have said they will not be punished and can apply for regular exit visas at home.

On Thursday 12 East Germans went home, leaving 28 still in the mission. The day before, 17 left.

At the height of the sit-in, which started in mid-September, more than 150 East Germans were crammed into the embassy. But most of the original group have already gone home.

The sources, contacted in Prague by telephone, said an unspecified number of East Germans had left Friday morning or were about to leave.

Others were still packing up their personal belongings into rucksacks or plastic bags or went to East Germany's Prague embassy to get their papers in order, the sources said.

"There is now some movement. Most of them have come to the decision to go home..." one source said.

Some 40 would-be emigrants went on a two-week hunger strike last month to support their bid to emigrate.

## China assures Taiwan over Hong Kong link

PEKING (R) — China assured Taiwan it would not harm the Nationalist Chinese island's lucrative links with Hong Kong when Britain hands the colony back to Peking in 1997.

Western diplomats said the pledge was significant as the first explicit statement of China's intentions towards Taipei's Hong Kong interests after implicit guarantees written into last month's Sino-British pact on Hong Kong.

After China's resumption of the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997, the relations

existing between Hong Kong and Taiwan, including those in the shipping, civil aviation, economic and cultural sphere and exchanges of personnel, will remain unchanged," a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman told Reuters.

This week Taipei indicated that, despite its previous stance, it might not now want to sever all ties with Hong Kong after Peking's takeover.

Hong Kong is Taiwan's third biggest trading partner and provides the Nationalists with \$2 bil-

lion a year in business.

The pact to preserve the colony's capitalist system after 1997 allows a future Hong Kong administration wide powers, including the right to allow states not recognised by Peking to set up non-governmental institutions there.

China and Taiwan reject each other's credentials, but the atmosphere of bitter hatred generated when the Communists drove the Nationalists out of power and into Taiwan in 1949 has calmed considerably in recent years.

## Honduras says Nicaraguan guerrillas must leave

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barmiza has called for the expulsion of rightwing Nicaraguan rebels from Honduras.

"I think these people (the rebels) should be kicked out of Honduras," Mr. Paz Barmiza told reporters. He said the U.S.-backed rebels had abused Honduran hospitality.

In recent months, Honduras has ordered the rebels to keep a low profile in what diplomats here have said was an attempt to negotiate more economic and military aid from the United States.

Tegucigalpa expelled Edgar Chamorro, leader of the rebel Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), last year in an attempt to curb rebel activity.

The FDN, the largest of the insurgent groups fighting the Sandinists, said in a radio broadcast monitored here that it had killed 4,567 government troops last year and wounded 6,511.

Last week Nicaraguan Defence Minister Humberto Ortega said the army had lost 1,000 troops fighting the rebels last year.

The United States has helped raise a 15,000-strong insurgent army to fight the left-wing Sandinista government, which the administration accuses of exporting revolution to the rest of Central America. But the U.S. Congress has voted to cut aid to the rebels.

In Washington, a Nicaraguan opposition leader urged the U.S. not to withdraw aid unless the Soviet Union and Cuba end their support of the leftist Sandinist government.

## French envoy to unveil formula for New Caledonia

PARIS (R) — France's special envoy in New Caledonia, Edgard Pisani, will propose next week that the Pacific territory becomes an independent state with special ties to France, the weekly Le Nouvel Observateur reported Friday.

The French government withheld comment on the report, which said Mr. Pisani, who is due to unveil his blueprint for the island on Jan. 7, would propose making New Caledonia an associated state of France.

The territory has been hit by civil disturbance since indigenous Kanak (Melanesian) militants demanding independence from France boycotted elections for a new territorial assembly in November and launched a campaign of disruption.

Mr. Pisani was sent to New Cal-

edonia a month ago with a mandate to find a fresh formula for the future of the territory to replace a plan voted by the French parliament last August which envisaged self-determination in 1989.

The Nouvel Observateur said Mr. Pisani would propose association with France for a period of five or 10 years under Article 88 of the French constitution.

This article, originally written in 1958 with France's former African colonies in mind, permits agreements "with states which wish to associate themselves with France to develop their civilisations."

France would retain an internal security role in the territory and be represented by a special delegate in the capital Noumea, which would be given the status of a free port.

The Nouvel Observateur quoted Mr. Pisani as saying his plan would offer guarantees to the Kanaks and to the European settler population, who are mostly opposed to independence.

The formula would satisfy Kanak demands for sovereignty but also ensure the economic future of the white community who would be able to choose between French and New Caledonian citizenship.

The report said Mr. Pisani would discuss his draft with the territory's different communities before returning to Paris at the beginning of February.

The pro-independence Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) has argued that only the Melanesians, who make up 43 per cent of the 145,000

population, should be allowed to vote on the territory's future. Mr. Pisani has said this is unacceptable. According to the Nouvel Observateur, he will propose that all inhabitants of the territory should vote except those who have been there for less than three years.

This was the formula which the previous government in Paris used when Djibouti became independent in the 1970s.

The plan would be put to the French parliament in February and to a referendum in New Caledonia in May or June.

The report said Mr. Pisani was hoping that most of the Melanesians and around a quarter of the European population would vote for the plan, enough to give it an overall majority.

## N.Korean leader pledges continued efforts for reunification

PYONGYANG (Agencies) — North Korean President Kim Il Sung has pledged to pursue dialogue with South Korea for reunifying the Korean peninsula.

In a New Year message, President Kim recalled that North Korea offered relief aid to South Korea and said "these relief measures created an atmosphere of contacts and dialogue between the two parts of the country and made a breach in the barrier which had stood between them for a long time."

Following are major excerpts from President Kim's statement: "Ending national division and reunifying the country is the most

urgent task of our people today. "With a view to easing the tension in our country and creating the preconditions for independent and peaceful national reunification, last year our party and the government of the republic made a new proposal for a tripartite talk between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States and South Korea and worked hard to put it into effect."

"Since it is a party responsible for the solution of the Korean question, the United States ought to accept our proposal as soon as possible."

"We must realise the tripartite

talks between our republic, the United States and South Korea and thus replace the Korean Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement so as to ease the tension in our country, remove the danger of a new war and ensure a durable peace."

"By means of this talk we will also adopt a declaration of non-aggression between the north and the south, thereby putting an end to the arms race and military confrontation between them and creating conditions and environments for the peaceful reunification of the country."

"Last year an important milestone was set up in the development of our friendly relations with the People's Republic of China a brotherly neighbour of ours. In May last year comrade Hu Yaobang, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, visited our country and adorned Korea-China friendship beautifully by carrying with him the friendly feelings of the 1,000 million Chinese people and some time ago we paid an informal visit to the People's Republic of China, and had momentous opportunities of meeting its high-ranking leaders and talking with them in a comradely and friendly atmosphere."

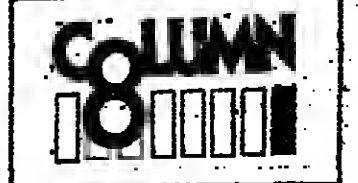
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## Raiders desecrate London church

LONDON (R) — Raiders desecrated a church in north London, plunging a knife through the heart of a figure depicting the infant Jesus in a Christmas crib and damaging holy objects. The Reverend Victor Stock, Vicar of St. James's Church, Friern Barnet, said they failed to destroy the safe containing consecrated bread which he said was a favourite target for devil worshippers. The raiders, who broke in through a stained glass window, caused extensive damage to the church's most sacred objects, he said.

## New portrait of Queen on coins

LONDON (R) — Britain's royal mint struck a new series of coins bearing an updated portrait of Queen Elizabeth, the first royal face-lift since 1968. The new and more mature portrait of the 57-year-old monarch appeared on 50 pence pieces and will follow on larger denominations. The design change is the third since the coronation in 1953.

## Priest jailed for mutilating corpses

TYWYN, Wales (R) — A Welsh priest was remanded in custody in this coastal town on charges of mutilating corpses awaiting burial. The Reverend Emrys Owen, 62, appeared before Tywyn magistrates on nine charges, including mutilating corpses in his care at two chapels and obscene behavior in a place of worship. Court proceedings against the priest will resume on Friday.

## China executes 9 sons of officials

PEKING (R) — China has executed nine sons of officials for rape, assault and other serious crimes, the People's Daily said Friday. The criminals and their accomplices committed the crimes over a four-year period, it said. China has executed thousands of criminals over the last year in a crackdown on crime.

## Ex-Times proprietor leaves \$3m

LONDON (R) — Lord Astor of Heaton, proprietor of the London Times, left £3,128,610 (\$3,600,000) in his will. He died in June aged 66. Lord Astor, who was chairman, co-chief proprietor and then president of the Times between 1959 and 1981, left most of his estate in trust to his two sons and three daughters. The Astor family home, Hever Castle in Kent, where Henry VIII courted Anne Boleyn, his second wife, was sold to a property group in 1983 for about £9 million (\$10.4 million). The contents fetched almost £6 million (\$6.9 million) at auction.

## Man executed for killing wife's lover

ANGOLA, Louisiana (R) — Former evangelist David Dene Martin, who shot dead his wife's lover and three others, went quietly to his death in the electric chair Thursday night. The state pardon board Thursday took only 15 minutes after a five-hour hearing to reject a final appeal for mercy for the 32-year-old Texan who wavered between religious conviction and drug and alcohol abuse. Martin was executed for killing his wife's lover, nightclub owner Bobby Todd, and three of his friends in August 1977. Louisiana State Penitentiary Warden Frank Blackburn said Martin declined to make a final statement or order a special last meal. "He was very calm to the end. His spiritual adviser stayed with him through the evening and was one of his witnesses," Mr. Blackburn said.

## Soviet physicist defects in Chicago

WASHINGTON (R) — A prominent Soviet physicist has defected to the United States and requested asylum, the State Department has said. Spokeswoman Kathleen Lang said Ardent Kulikov, 51, requested political asylum on Dec. 24 after turning himself in to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) in Chicago. She declined to give details of the meeting or say when a decision on his request would be made.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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### A NINE TOO MANY

North-South vulnerable.

East deals.

NORTH

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SOUTH